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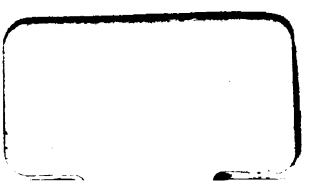

THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC,

DEVOTED TO

REFORMED MEDICINE,

GENERAL SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D.,
ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D., } *Editors.*

VOL. I.

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INDEX.

VOLUME I.—1874.

	No.	Page.
Abortion by Regular Physicians	200	
Address by Dr. Alexander Wilder	112	
Annual Announcement of the Eclectic Medical College of New York City, for 1873–4	26	
Annual Announcement of Eclectic Medical College of New York City, for 1874–5	105, 117, 176	
Anonymous Writers	198	
Appointments	32, 136	
Aromatic Liquid Pepsin	94	
A Legislative Peril Ahead	199	
Books	17, 18, 19, 71, 72, 99, 119, 177	
Book Table	213, 214	
Bacteria in the Blood	97	
Barnum, Phineas T.; Combination of Temperaments	128	
Bennett, John Hughes, M. D., Still in the Advance	70	
Cactus; by Richard E. Kunze, M. D.	36, 81, 119, 159, 188	
Carcinoma Uteri	179–182	
Changes at Bellevue Hospital	213	
Chloral Hydrate, uses of; by Alex. Wilder	48	
"Citrine Ointment"	56	
Cholera, Chloral in	97	
Clairvoyant Diagnosis, Hippocrates on	98	
College, Eclectic Medical, of New York	23, 74, 100, 111, 173	
College, Eclectic Medical, of London	69	
College, Eclectic Medical, of N. Y., Alumni Association of	104	
Colleges, Eclectic, Claims of	141	
Commencement Exercises	101, 111	
Concentrated Medicines	94	
Consumption Contagious; by Dr. Alexander Wilder	9	
Courage, Want of	96	
Dead, Cremation of	94	
Delirium Tremens, Veratrum for	168	
Diptheria; by H. Boskowitz, M. D.	79	
Diptheria, Extract of Pinus for Malignant	21	
Dysentery, Formula for	125	
Eclecticism, Indebtedness to	34	
Eclectic Medical Association, (National) Proceedings of	61	
Eclectic Medical Association (National) Meetings of	96, 138, 173	
Eclectic Medical Societies, Annual Meetings of	64, 90, 140	
Electricity, Sound Identical with	69	
Eclectics (Medical) in Great Britain	69	
Eclectic Medicine, Future of	78	
Eclectic Platform	109	
Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, Annual Report of	133	
Eclectic Medical Auxiliary Societies in 13th, 15th and 30th Senate Districts, Reports of	139	
Eclectic State Medical Society of New Jersey	170, 175	
Eclectic Medical College of New York City	23, 74, 100, 111, 173	
Eclectic Medical Society of New York City		
Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York	201	
Elastic Truss and Supporter	88, 167, 175	
Faculty (Eclectic Medical College of New York)	27, 108, 117, 176	
Fistula in Ano	95	
Gettysburg Springs	166, 126	
Graduation of Students, Requisites for	27, 76. 176, 117	
Graduates, Names of	29, 30, 31	
Graduates' Farewell	155	
Graduation, Candidates for	112	
Hernia, etc.	130	
Hernia Curable	211, 212	
Hint to Eclectics; by Eli G. Jones, M. D.	184	
Homeopathic Physicians, Courtesies from	59	
Homeopathy, a Plea for; by Prof. H. Boskowitz, M. D.	185	
Hospital for Women, Dr. Thompson's Report of	173	

	No. Page.
Hunter, John, Rules, &c.	96
Inflammation of the Mamma, Phytolacca in	85
Insanity–an Unsolved Problem,	143
Instruction, Course of	118, 177
Kunze, Dr. R. E.	95
Low Dishonesties	57
Magnesia, Milk of	80
Mamma, Phytolacca in Inflammation of	85
Mammoths Still Living	98
Medicine, Institutes of; by Prof. Jos. R. Buchanan	5
Medicines, Action of	55
Medical Eclectics in Great Britain	69
Medical Bourbonism	95
Medical Hierachy, Projects of.	132
Medical Law of 1874	171
Mercury or Lead, Removing from the System	96
Modern Astronomy, Henson's Great Facts of	71
Medical Eclecticism in New York	177
Medical Association, Ohio Eclectic	207
Michigan Eclectic Medical Association	207
Medical Association, Indiana Eclectic	208
National Eclectic Medical Association,	61, 91, 138, 173
Necrology, 67; C. H. Hale, 67; R. J. Burton, 67; W. E. Wright, 68; J. W. Johnston,	68
Newton, Dr. O. E.	91
Newton, Robert S., M. D., Surgery, Future of	15
Newton, Robert S., M. D., Eclectic Treatise on Diseases of Children	19
Newton, Robert S., M. D., Practice of Medicine	19
Newton, Robert S., M. D., Malignant Diptheria	21
Newton, Robert S., M. D., on Pinus Canadensis.	21
Newton, Robert S., M. D., on the Action of Medicines	55
Newton, Robert S., M. D., Drs. H. Boskowitz and S. B. Barlow on	60
Notes on the Times	87
No Delegates to the National E. M. Association	200
Old and New	17, 99
Pepsin	94
Phrenological Journal	72, 99
Physiology, Bennett's Text-Book of	71
Place aux Dames.	98
Population, Increase of.	43
Preamble and Resolutions	116
Private Classes	86
Red-Rubber Plates Poisonous	172
Reformed Medicine in Georgia	169
Report of Session	111
Russian Autocrat and Lady Students	20
Salutory	1
Session, Report of	111
Sewing Machines	65
Sick Headache, Gurana in	172
Silicate of Soda	97
Small-Pox among the Vaccinated	96
Social Demoralization	19
Soda, Silicate of	97
Some Good Things	124
Sound Identical with Electricity	69
Spurious Eclectics	35
Surgical Improvements; by Robert S. Newton, M. D.	44
Surgery, Future of	15
Society, E. M., State of N. Y.	133
Society, E. M., Auxiliaries and Reports	139
Society, E. M., New Jersey	170–175
Society, E. M., National,	61, 91, 138, 173
Societies, E. M., Annual Meetings	64, 90, 140
Taylor's Masque of the Gods.	72
Text-Books	28, 118, 177
The Stone which the Builders Rejected	165
The Times, Notes on	87
The Eclectic Medical College.	201
The National Public Health Association	201
The Indiana Position	209, 210
Trustees and Officers	26
Veratrum for Delirium Tremens	168
Visitors Invited	104
Westchester Physicians on Homeopathy	182
Whither the Masters Tend	94
Who Kills their Children?	92
Wilder, Dr. Alex., Addresses by	112
Wilder, Dr. Alex., on Uses of Chloral-Hydrate	48
Wilder, Dr. Alex., on Consumption Contagious	9
Wine that is Red	97

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THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D., ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

EDITORS.

VOL. I. SEPTEMBER 15, 1873. No. I.

"Choose you this day which you will serve."
Joshua, xxiv: 15.

Salutatory.

An unexpected visitor, perhaps, but THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC will not be regarded, nevertheless, as a herald having no tidings. It will represent the cause, the principle, and the men through whose agency eclecticism in the practice of the healing art, was evolved; and it will endeavor to maintain steadfastly the profession of which it is a witness and expositor. If this is faithfully done, the conductors will be abundantly vindicated from a like imputation to that made against certain teachers in a former period: "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran; I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."

At the present time, Eclectic Medicine is without a distinctive journal in the States upon the Atlantic sea-board. Indeed, there has been manifest somewhat of a disposition to lay aside the appellation, and at the same time, to draw off from the confessions and practice which that designation is understood to signify. Of this we do not complain. There may be sincere conviction impelling it. But, nevertheless, it implies an abandonment of the first love, an undoing of the

first works, a descending from the positions assumed by the founders of the Reformed Medical Practice, a building again of the things before destroyed. The necessity has thus been created for a publication which shall assert anew the former faith, and be the champion and exponent of the cardinal doctrines to which Eclectic physicians subscribe. In obedience to that requirement, reluctantly and with diffidence, we have entered the forum. In literary and professional merit, we shall endeavor to maintain a position creditable to our associates.

By Eclecticism we understand no meaningless expression, no mere negative protest, no waiving of originality, no such medley as would be likely from selecting and combining without unity, principle, or a consistent system. From the first we have learned our lesson differently. We have been ready and desirous to perceive and apprehend the good which was in all creeds and schools, although compelled, not always without sadness and disappointment, to acknowledge that none was wholly unexceptionable. In this we have acted in the spirit of the philosophical Eclecticism of former times, which sought to eliminate from all systems their accretions of error and human invention, in order to exhibit the Divine Wisdom itself, which underlies and permeates all real knowledge. We believe with Plato, that the office of instruction is to bring such knowledge within the field of human consciousness; and to do this, the extraneous matter which mistaken men have added and interpolated, must be removed. "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind; which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

First of all, therefore, there is and must be, an inmost idea and apprehension of what is good and true, which affords a touch-stone to test everything. This being the cardinal fact in philosophy and the superior knowledge, a like criterion is offered accordingly, for medical art and its auxiliary sciences. While painfully conscious of our own shortcomings in respect to what is actually known, we unhesitatingly avow our adherence to the standard. The ideal of Medical Eclecticism is

the Truth, all-lifeful and therefore all-potent; and thitherward, accordingly, all real discovery, all genuine progress, actually tends.

"The physician is the minister and auxiliary of Nature, and it is his vocation to know and apply remedial agents which conform exactly to the laws of life, and aid the physical system to relieve itself of morbid elements and recover the normal performance of its functions. Imperfection of knowledge will of course, compel resort to medicaments which are more or less open to objection; but for all that, we may not abandon the principle.

"We believe that knowledge makes its possessors liberal and fraternal, and not partisan or exclusive. We accordingly accept no Code of Ethics which is in conflict with the golden rule: 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.' Nor can we esteem any information lightly, however it may have been contributed, which shall enable us in any way to be more useful in our calling. The art of healing, like civilization itself, is daily improving, expanding, and becoming more perfect."

This avowal in the Platform and Declaration of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, explicitly defines our position in respect to the art and practice of medicine. We look for the continual evolving of additional information, in the several domains of healing, sanative, physiological, and anthropological science. Hence, while we would reverently interrogate the higher sources of wisdom, we courteously and affectionately consider the propositions and discoveries made by explorers into the domains of scientific enquiry. We deprecate and shall not invite controversy.

It is not our purpose to confine our articles, contributions and selections, to subjects technically medical. "The field is the world." The knowledge of the physician cannot lawfully be circumscribed to an acquaintance with maladies and their specific treatment. Humanity as a whole is his appropriate study. It is as indispensable for him to know the mental and moral, the psychological laws, as to understand the ordinary physical phenomena. He should possess all knowledge.

He should be in his own person, the embodiment of his profession, kind in disposition, clear in vision, unerring in sagacity, and wise in very simplicity.

Already the ablest medical scholars of Europe read Eclectic books and quote from them, use Eclectic medicines and praise them as such. In this country the books are read but not quoted; the medicines are used, although not often credited to their discoverers. Many who do this, affect to be liberal. The pretext of generosity is not an equivalent for justice.

No malice of adversaries can endanger the New School of Medicine. The real peril is within its own ranks. Eclectic physicians should acquire that general erudition and exercise the good sense which shall characterize their vocation. Every medical student should become scholarly in other departments of knowledge. He should carefully abstain, by the use of slang, bad grammar, worse pronunciation, or the unnecessary employment of technical or foreign words and phrases, from doing violence to the noble old vernacular which is denominated his mother tongue. He should make choice of his vocation because he has a love and enthusiasm for it, and a generous regard for his fellow-men. He shall then rest content with nothing short of thorough proficiency.

The MEDICAL ECLECTIC is especially the organ and messenger of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York. The prosperity of that institution is essential to the success and reputation of Eclectic physicians in the United States. They have no strength to throw away. It has never been managed for other than the general weal, to promote liberal sentiments and thorough scholarship. Let it be generously supported. It will give more in return than it will receive. It will prosper as Eclectic Medicine flourishes; with its suspension the final history of that practice will be written in all our Eastern States—"FUIT."

By attention to these necessary matters, maintaining carefully our acquisitions, cultivating friendly social relations, giving to each other co-operation and sympathy, always enlarging our sphere of activity, we will magnify our vocation; and it will be accounted honorable to be an Eclectic physician.

The Institutes of Medicine.

BY PROFESSOR JOS. R. BUCHANAN, M. D.

Medical schools have frequently recognzied as a distinct department in College instruction something which they call the *Institutes of Medicine.* Yet this department is so often omitted or blended with others as to produce a doubt in the minds of students whether there is anything of practical and permanent value in the so-called Institutes. But it might as well be doubted whether there is such a science as Sociology, distinct from the history of the different nations that constitute humanity.

When the separate facts and principles of chemistry, materia medica, anatomy, physiology, therapeutics, surgery and obstetrics are fairly understood, a reflective mind cannot fail to perceive that there is yet something wanting, some lack of correlation between these departments, some lack of comprehensive principles, which shall unitize these different areas of knowledge in a philosophy or central science, equally related to all of the specialties, which are combined in Medical Science—in short, a philosophy consisting of the fundamental principles of medical science—not a speculative abstraction, but truths of a practical character, so comprehensive in their scope and bearing that no one department of medicine can do them justice. They are neither chemistry, pathology, therapeutics nor physiology, as such, but related to them all, and chiefly based upon or a direct outgrowth of the science of the human constitution, for that science is the unitary centre and basis of all medical science.

As regarded and taught in the schools heretofore, the science of man is simply physiology. But as physiology in its present unfinished condition, as we find it in the writings of Carpenter, Muller, Brown-Sequard and many others, does not embrace the functions of the cerebrum, and consequently ignores the psychic existence of man, (which is his chief existence) and its various derangements in melancholy, nostalgia, insanity, somnambulism, passion and crime, as well as its normal action

in hope, volition, sympathy, &c., which are so immensely important in the practice of medicine, Physiology cannot be considered the science of man, but constitutes only its material portion, exclusive of the vast sphere of thought and will, emotion and passion. It is well known now, that the passions do not belong to the viscera as supposed by Bichat, but belong as certainly as thought to the cerebrum. Hence we see what a vast hiatus there would be in the science of man if the functions of the cerebrum, which embrace all our thoughts, emotions, joys, sorrows and impulses, were omitted as an unfathomable mystery.

Anthropology therefore is a vastly more comprehensive term than physiology, the latter being only one of its largest departments, and it must be in anthropology that we shall find the fundamental general laws of which Medicine is a minute and ample development.

The knowledge of a steam-engine possessed by the master-machinist who builds it, is the foundation of the knowledge and skill of the locomotive engineer, who runs it in some distant forest, remote from the place of its first construction, where he must repair its breakages and keep it in a working condition. The skillful machinist alone makes the reliable engineer.

So in medical science, he who understands the entire plan of the human constitution, how it is put together and interiorly connected as a whole by the nervous and vascular systems, may hope to manage the complex fabric without committing the gross practical errors of those who have no comprehensive idea of the plan and connection of the parts.

Medical science is an ample record of such follies and homicides, certainly not criminal homicides, but direct destruction of life by deluded or ignorant physicians. The treatment of consumption, until within the last thirty or forty years, was upon the whole an aggravation of the disease.

The Institutes of Medicine were not sufficiently developed and understood to show the true relations of tubercle to healthy blood, and the relations of the red globules to the general vitality and recuperative power. A course of treatment, which steadily reduced the vital force, was adopted without perceiving

that it was this very lack of vital force which rendered tuberculization possible, and which assured its progressive continuance and encroachment on life.

One of the most important chapters belonging to the Institutes of Medicine, is that which explains the relations of the red globules to the general vitality, and their necessary agency in resisting consumption, neuralgia, irritability, inflammation and fever.

For want of this knowledge, the medical profession generally, until a comparatively recent period, have been almost unanimously engaged in a bloody war against the vitality of their patients, whenever the phenomena of inflammation and fever became so violent as to seem to require heroic measures. Yet nothing was better established by pathology and chemistry, and especially by the researches of Andral and Magendie, than the destructive effect of bleeding, and the difficulty of resisting disease, after the globules, so difficult to regenerate, have been reduced by depletion with the lancet.

Twenty-five years ago, when I applied these well-established principles of the Institutes of Medicine to show the necessity of a change in the prevalent modes of practice, the lancet was still regarded by many physicians as their sheet-anchor in the treatment of active diseases, and no toleration could be extended to one who demanded reform on scientific principles. But to-day the case is marvellously changed. The success of every system of non-depleting practice, and the failure of the lancet when fairly tested in the Hospital, have enforced the truths which pathology and chemistry had taught in vain; and the lancet is no longer the emblem of the medical, as the sword of the military profession. The true principles of the Institutes of Medicine becoming better known, pretentious quackery is to that extent abolished, and medicine is becoming more truly sanative.

These illustrations serve to indicate what is meant by the Institutes of Medicine—a set of fundamental principles derived from Anthropology, which constitute the very backbone of a practical system of healing.

But why has this important department been so often

neglected? First, because fragments of its principles have been borrowed by the other departments, and secondly, because Anthropology has been so imperfectly understood.

To comprehend the general laws of the operations of the human body, in health and sickness, requires a thorough comprehension of the operation of the constitution *as a whole*—a knowledge of the sympathetic, co-operative and antagonistic relations of the different organs, and consequently a thorough understanding of *the blood* and the *nervous system;* for it is by the circulation and the nervous action, that the various organs are unitized and enabled to react on each other.

It is just these two departments of investigation which have heretofore been in the most incomplete and unsatisfactory state. The "nervous system" was a sort of outlying territory of darkness, into which every curious phenomenon, every inscrutable mystery was thrown; and hematology, forty years ago, was rudimentary and greatly neglected.

The following questions, if proposed to a medical student, thirty years ago, would have made him aware that something was lacking in his knowledge, and in most cases, if they had been proposed to his professor, the result would have been much the same, except that by his readiness in general platitudes and irrelevancies, he might have endeavored to conceal his ignorance.

1. What is the peculiar relation between the encephalon and the pelvic viscera?

2. Where in the human constitution is the minimum of vitality, and what relation does it hold to the development of fever?

3. What single diagnostic indication constitutes a general criterion of the malignity of fever?

4. What single property forms the general criterion of the value of febrifuge remedies?

5. What are the immediate causes of tuberculization?

6. What is the most universal antiphlogistic, or counter-agent of inflammation?

7. What are the inevitable and universal consequences of bleeding?

8. What is the principal cause of irritability?

9. What is the most prompt and efficient agency for the removal of congestion?

10. What is the general law of the relations between the nervous and the muscular system as elements of the constitution?

11. What remarkable difference exists between the vital relations of the upper and lower portions of lungs?

12. What relation exists between the bronchial region and the front lobe of the brain?

13. What portions of the nervous system exercise the control of the reproductive organs?

14. What conformation of the brain predisposes to insanity?

15. What is the difference between sleep and somnambulism?

16. What functions in the human body sustain and which antagonize each other?

17. How can we determine the influence of a medicine upon the mental condition?

These are *a few* of the questions with which the Institutes of Medicine are concerned. In its full development this department indicates clearly the principles of Sanitary Science, and the fundamental principles of the practice of medicine, which, being based on the laws of life, are truly scientific and of universal application.

Consumption Contagious.

BY ALEXANDER WILDER.

It now seems to be agreed upon among pathologists that scrofula and tubercular consumption are not one in inception. Though the scrofulous diathesis may develop consumption, yet it is conceded that it is not the necessary source of that malady. The percentage of scrofula has been plausibly attributed to insufficient food and warmth on the part of the

poor, and to syphilitic contamination. It is certain that where these have been scrofula follows. Smallpox is also a great developer of struma.

"Tuberculosis differs from scrofulosis in this: that supposing a general constitutional deterioration or cachexia, it has but one manifestation, we prove it but one way, and that is, by the deposit of a particular matter." It possesses germinal power. We cannot, therefore, regard it as unorganized or unorganizable; it has, like cancer, a vitality of its own, and is communicable from a diseased to a healthy individual.

Among the English-speaking nations, consumption is the greatest outlet of life. The mortality from it in the North-eastern States of the Union is largest of all; averaging annually in Massachusetts, 1 in every 250 inhabitants; in Maine and New Hampshire, 1 in 280; in Rhode Island, 1 in 300; in Connecticut, 1 in 360; in Vermont, 1 in 400; in New York, 1 in 470; in New Jersey, 1 in 490. Cold and moisture develop it; yet either alone seems to assure exemption. The cold climate of Minnesota, and the warmer climate of the southernmost states, are considered as desirable places of resort for those liable to contract the malady.

Yet an opinion is often entertained that phthisis is not, after all, the creation solely of peculiar conditions of season and climate, but the progeny of contamination, from a specific virus, as glanders in a horse, or smallpox in a man. We have for a long time entertained this belief. In that conviction we have been careful to refrain from using the clothes or bedding of consumptive patients, from frequenting their society, and as far as possible from inhaling their breath. The last precaution is most difficult of all; persons with tainted breath, whether from disease, onions, cheese, or tobacco, are generally very pains-taking in the endeavor to throw their noxious and offensive exhalations into the faces of others.

But the matter has claimed somewhat more of attention. In a paper by Thomas More Madden, assistant physician of the Rotunda Hospital, in Dublin, occurs the following passage:

"I may here repeat a somewhat remarkable fact, which I first pointed out several years ago; namely, that in Malaga, where

formerly the mortality from phthisis was smaller than in almost any part of Europe, of late years, ever since this town has acquired a renown as a winter residence for phthisical patients, the mortality from this disease has increased notably amongst the native population. And thus a belief in the contagious nature, or rather in the communicable character of phthisis, is now so general in Malaga, that many Spanish lodging-house proprietors refuse to admit phthisical invalids as inmates of their *casas de pupilos*, or into their families. This opinion I must say appears to me to have more foundation in fact than is commonly supposed, and I cannot doubt that, in hot climates at least, constant communication with consumptive patients, and especially sleeping in the same room with them and breathing an atmosphere thus charged with the morbid exhalations from their diseased lungs, is very likely to prove injurious to persons in delicate health, and may determine the occurrence of phthisis in individuals who might otherwise have escaped this disease."

This paragraph affords a stronger support to the hypothesis proposed in this paper, than appears at first blush. If a disease, which was almost unknown in a place, becomes (from contact or association with strangers who have contracted it,) so common, as to attract the attention of uneducated persons the probabilities are very definite in regard to its contagious or infectious character. But, the evidence is also afforded from a source less liable to be called in question.

M. Villemin, a professor at Val de Grace (Paris), wrote a treatise, several years since, entitled, *De la Virulence et de la Specificité de la Tuberculose*—Concerning the virulence and specificity of Tuberculosis. It was intended as a reply to certain exceptions taken to the views which he had advanced in papers on the subject, read in the French Academy of Medicine. A year later it was followed by another treatise, *On the Propagation of Phthisis*, which seems fully to demonstrate the proposition relative to the contagiousness of the malady.

As in cholera and other maladies, the excretions contribute the principal agents of transmission. The expectorated matter is most venomous of all. M. Chauveau, during the controversy in the Academy, selected several young heifers, for experiment. The reason of this choice lay in the fact that neat cattle are

themselves subject to tuberculous consumption. Side by side with those that were the subject of experiment were others, to serve as a corrective standard. He made three of the animals each swallow about thirty grammes of tuberculous matter. In fifty-two days, they were all in a deplorable condition of health; displaying all the signs of an intense tuberculosis. The autopsy revealed the alterations most highly characteristic of phthisis. The lungs, the larynx, the glands of the bronchi, of the mediastinum, of the mesentery, of other parts, the intestine, the spleen, were infiltrated throughout with tubercles. A fourth heifer, of the same stock, but not of so fine an appearance, that had not been subjected to the experiments, far from falling away in health, exhibited a most striking contrast to these other animals, by its brilliant and flourishing condition. M. Chauveau inferred from this that tuberculosis was actually and absolutely a malady propagated by virus, like any virulent disease. Bovine animals contract it, just as they take anthrax and vaccinia; as sheep take sheep-pox, horses the glanders, and man the smallpox.

An unpleasant revelation is made for the benefit of beef-eating persons. The use of beef may be an efficient cause of consumption in men, when the meat is imperfectly cooked-and more especially when there is left in it some tuberculous portions, such as the ganglia, or pieces of the pleura. An interdict against the eating of the lungs would seem also to be a necessary precaution.

M. Parrot made a similar experiment upon a Guinea pig, giving it tuberculous matter, about a scruple at a time. It perished in about three months; all the viscera except the heart and kidney, and the encephalon, being thoroughly tuber, culised. Other pigs in the same litter escaped, except one which had been subjected to a similar experiment.

M. Villemin transmitted the disease by inoculation with the liquid matters of expectoration, by hypodermic injection, and by traversing the lip of a small wound in a rabbit, by a thread bathed in the sputum.

The dried matter expectorated, was found to be the most effective agent, especially if quickly desiccated. "When," he

says, "you allow the expectoration of the tuberculosis to dry upon a plate, it forms a crust which splits and breaks like varnish; these crusts are with much facility reduced to powder. The sputa received into a handkerchief, will concrete in the same way by desiccation, and detach themselves very easily by aid of a little rubbing from the surface of the linen. It may easily be imagined that matters expectorated and thrown on the wooden boards, by consumptive patients, will resolve themselves into a dust, capable of rising, by various agitations, into the air of the apartment."

Considered from that point of view, it was highly important to ascertain whether the dried expectoration was inoculable. Experiment showed that when slowly dried, it did not communicate contagion. But if rapidly dried, it produced phthisis by inoculation, by a deposit of the matter pulverized upon a surface denuded by a blister, and by insufflation through an opening into the trachea. The same powder, however, when preserved several months, failed of transmitting contagion.

This would seem to bring the whole subject within appreciable limits. Experiments made with the sweat afforded no conclusive results; and neither M. Villemin nor M. Chauveau appear to have attempted to ascertain the fact in relation to transmission of the disease by the breath. The sputa are regarded by those gentlemen as the principal agency for communicating the disease.

M. Villemin instances a subcutaneous wound upon the ear of a rabbit, or in the groins or axilla of the guinea pig or of a dog, a wound so inconsiderable as not even to have any show of blood. On this place the least bit of tubercular matter taken from a man, cow or rabbit; or instill under the skin with a syringe a little expectorated matter made liquid by admixture with water. The next day no trace of this inoculated matter will be perceived. But at the end of four or five days, or more, a slight tumefaction is produced, sometimes accompanied with redness and heat; and one may notice progressive development of a local tubercle, which varies from the size of a hemp-seed to that of a filbert. The

lymphatic ganglia in communication with the affected parts will not unfrequently also tumefy; become strown with tuberculous nodules, and end sometimes in a completely caseous transformation. Lastly, one may observe also, in certain cases, an alteration of the lymphatic vessels which connect the ganglia to the local tubercles, an alteration which brings to mind completely what is named the *cord of farcy* in a glandered horse.

In the first period after the inoculation, animals do not present any appreciable alteration in their health; only at the end of fifteen, twenty or thirty days, are they found to be getting thinner. Sometimes, having fallen away for a time, they recover their former condition. Others keep getting weaker and weaker, till they fall into marasmus. They are often seized with colliquative diarrhea, and sink into a state of extreme emaciation. At the autopsy tubercles are found in the lungs, also in the ganglia, intestines, liver, spleen, kidneys, serous membranes.

The peculiar nodules of glanders are very similar to those of phthisis; and the sputum of the consumptive patient is inoculable like the discharge from glandered horses. There is then, beyond doubt, a virus of consumption, analogous to that of glanders and syphilis.

It is not in the liquid state, however, that the expectorated matter of tuberculosis commonly acts, but, as before intimated, in the state of desiccation and pulverulence, after having been cast on the floor, trodden under foot, rubbed into cloth garments, bed clothing, etc. This shows another analogy with glanders, which is transmitted habitually by the nasal discharge of the animals diseased.

This manner of regarding and explaining the propagation of phthisis, accords with the facts observed in respect to the frequency of the malady in prisons, barracks, convents, etc.; its rarity in nomadic populations and isolated or dispersed individuals. Tuberculosis, like glanders, is inherently a disease of domicils, from the impossibility of its transmission to great distances.

The Future of Surgery.

Prominent among the benefits which Medical Eclecticism has conferred upon science and the healing art, is the reform of surgical practice. The good conferred has been two-fold. In the treatment of surgical diseases it has effected radical changes, by laying aside the noxious and abominable lotions, salves and ointments, leprous with mercury, arsenic, antimony and lead. No sincere Eclectic surgeon makes any of them his dependence, or recommends them to students or patients.

Operative surgery is rather a mechanical than a scientific art. It is accordingly, in those countries of Europe, where medical knowledge is cultivated to a degree of superior refinement, regarded as pertaining to a lower grade. In England, a surgeon, as such, does not possess the physician's degree. John Hunter and Abernethy, bore the plain title of "Mr.," while William Cullen and Watson were "Doctors." In this country the same person exercises the functions of physician and surgeon. The Homœopathists confine themselves more exclusively to medical practice, a very small proportionate number of them tampering with surgical operations. The Eclectics exhibit a far greater ratio of surgeons.

Our own College has been a fair illustration of this. In the first class of graduates were two or three young men of excellent qualifications as surgeons, who compare favorably with operators in other schools. There has been no falling off since that time, in the subsequent classes. In obstetrics, has always been with us even greater proficiency, theoretically and practically. No deserved reproach has been incurred in these respects.

The greatest achievements of Eclectic surgery have been the triumphs of peace; won in silence, without the sounding of trumpets, and the applause of multitudes. We know that garlands and laurels and the applause of multitudes, are bestowed freely upon the successful military leader who has marked his progress by slaughter and devastation. Yet the statesman who establishes peace by arbitration, explanations and honorable concessions, is a greater benefactor, although less honored. The true surgeon is like that statesman. Instead of often performing capital operations, and making himself glorious by a

display of costly instruments, and the other paraphernalia for maiming and torturing the human body, he labors quietly, and generally unpraised, for his better method of proceeding to obviate the necessity, if any is apparent, for such extreme measures. Of course, he surrenders much of his reputation for skill and knowledge. Of this character are the achievements and the reputation bestowed in sequence of our Eclectic surgeon. But his is the better, the holier art. His is the golden skill that protects the patient.

We look for nobler achievements than these. It is the office of science to anticipate maladies and fence them off beforehand, by sanitary precaution, and to obviate the necessity of medication by proper hygienic treatment of the sick. We cordially adopt the sentiment of the late Sir J. Y. Simpson, of Scotland, that physicians must know the exact organic poisons that produce diseases, with all their exact antidotes and eliminatories; look upon the cure of some maladies, as simply a series of chemical problems and formulas; melt down all calculi, necrosed bones, etc., chemically, and not remove them by surgical operations; stem bleeding in amputations and other wounds, not by septic ligatures or stupid needles, but by the simple application of hæmastatic gases or washes; healing the few wounds required in surgery by the first intention; stay the ravages of tubercle, blot out fevers and inflammations, avert and melt down morbid growths and ferments, annul the deadly influences of malaria and contagions, and by these and other means extend the average duration of human life.

The youth David laid aside the armor of Saul when he went forth to engage the giant. For this the Philistine cursed him, declaring that this was the treatment of a dog. As far as may be, let our new surgery disentangle itself from the clumsy scientific apparel with which we may have been cumbered. We have other business than seeking to please, or even to enlighten the ill-disposed. The philosopher says: "He who pours water into a muddy well, does but disturb the mud." It is for us to advance, to realize as far as may be the ideal of our vocation; in all respects, leaving the things which are behind, to prosecute the more excellent way.

The Review.

OLD AND NEW is now upon its eighth volume. Its history is a forcible illustration of the change that has occurred in the method of publishing magazines in this country. It was proposed at a Unitarian Convention in this city by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Osgood, and launched a few months after, under those peculiar religious influences, with the Rev. E. E. Hale for managing editor. A year or so was all that was required, and it fell into the hands of Roberts Brothers, of Boston. Now-a-days magazines are the property of publishing houses, and our principal publishing houses find it necessary to have their magazines, on the same principles that corporations maintain an attorney. The proprietors employ an editor and he surrounds himself with a coterie of contributors between whom a species of freemasonry exists, volunteer writers being seldom permitted a place in the columns of the periodical. It is a somewhat illiberal management, but it is in keeping with the spirit of the times. Individual exertion "must decrease;" the corporation, association and capitalist are omnipotent and "must increase."

Old and New is one of the magazines that will endure. There is a catholicity in it that meets a great variety of wants; it portrays inimitably the enterprises and the epidemic fancies of the times, and keeps up with the current literature and science. The July number, for example, contains chapters of two serials, "My Time, and What I have done with it," by F.

C. Barnard; and "Scrope, or the Lost Library," by the non-reverend editor, F. B. Perkins. Both are most excellent in their way; and we have read with interest, Mr. Perkins's chapters on the book auctions, the late Mr. Gowans' labyrinthine second-hand book-store on Nassau street, the visit to the waiter-girl saloon and the gambling-den on Broadway, the *seance*, (see-ance,) at the meeting-place in the "fusty upper room" of the Solidarité de l'Avenir, perhaps from having witnessed similar things ourselves, though never *quorum pars*. "Ipsie" is a tale that teaches preachers a lesson which they too often need to learn, namely: the importance of talking intelligibly. Readers will be delighted to learn that Daniel Webster once helped, for a pittance, edit a weekly newspaper. Those attached to the higher learning, will welcome the College Directory, embracing the notice of two hundred institutions, and peruse with avidity the papers of Prof. Eliot, J. O. Quincy and Mr. Hale. The paper of Mrs. Swalm, explaining the organization of "The Granges of the Patrons of Husbandry," appears none too soon; this new element in our political caldron needs to be better comprehended.

The August number is now out, and is equally choice. If the departed "Mr. Ingham" is not careful of his "double," he will be again "undid." The variety is new rather than old. "Scrope" this time is devoted to Spiritualism, and S. P. Q. Anketell; but the plot is more unfolded. The "Hopeless Attachment" is well told; "Low Tides," and "On Duty" are far better, however. The paper on "Skilled Labor and the Distaste of American Boys for Trades," is the most important of all; but omits one or two points. American boys have a distaste for superciliousness in employers, and the organized despotism of Trades' Unions, which assume to dictate who shall be employed, how long they shall work, and the amount of wages, at the expense of individual self-reliance. Besides, shoddy respectability defeats enterprise, and cankers industry.

The chromolith painting "Confidence," is furnished new subscribers; or what is better, three back numbers of the *Old and New*.

An Eclectic Treatise on the Diseases of Children. By ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D., and W. BYRD POWELL, M.D. Of the intrinsic merits of this book it is unnecessary to speak. It is gotten up in excellent style, printed in clear, beautiful type, on good paper, and handsomely bound, with life-like portraits of both the authors. 1 vol., 8vo, 610 pages. New York Edition. Price, $5.

The Eclectic Practice of Medicine. By ROBERT S. NEWTON, M.D. This work is a complete exposition of the Eclectic in the treatment of disease. 1 vol., nearly 600 pages. New York. Price, $5. All of which will be sent free of postage on receipt of the above price.

Address 137 W. 47 St., New York City.

Social Demoralization.

The extent to which society is broken up in this country is little imagined or even suspected. At the present time hardly a man can be found whose word on a money question, is worth the pledging. A member of a prominent publishing house in this city, a religious one at that, proposed, a few days ago, a "business lie" as a way out of a perplexing difficulty. If the resource of persons in pecuniary embarassment is lying, and such lying is respectable, there is little left. This "vice of slaves" is appropriate only for a dishonored community.

Debt is almost universal. The extravagant expenditures induced by the ill-gotten fortunes of the last ten years, have produced their harvest. Our numerous private corporations are to an astonishing degree, organized schemes for fraud. Some of our Trust Companies are rotten. The Savings Banks need watching. For Life Insurance Companies, read the disclosures of Shepard Homans. If secrets were probed, the thin disguise of fraud and bankruptcy would be too abundant for credence.

Poverty is in our palaces; beggary in the brown-stone fronts. The numbers that know not from day to day how to procure

food, that are in despair of relief, are legion. The city of New York is proposing to spew out her population. If food is dear and a coal famine, such as the railway magnates are said to be organizing, is precipitated upon us, there will be calamity more terrible than war and pestilence combined.

Political matters are demoralized like the rest. Our state governments are generally in the hands of railroad jobbers, of men that have grown rich by corporate extortion. Our courts are presided over, in a great degree, by men whom they have suborned. The people are conspired against by their public men; fraud, perjury, falsehood, are household words.

If we cannot speedily rehabilitate honorable and correct dealing in public and private business, if men's words do not become reliable, if faith between man and man is not soon restored, the bands of society will become loosed, and ruin, financially and socially, will sweep over every part of the country. We are nearer disaster than is supposed.

The Russian Autocrat and Lady Students.

His Imperial Majesty Alexander II, Czar of all the Russias, has issued an ukase, directing all Russian women, students in medicine at Zurich, in Switzerland, to return home within the year. More than any other country in Europe, the government of St. Petersburg assumes to control the action of its subjects, especially when abroad; and the penalties for disobedience are very severe. Out of more than one hundred female students, Russians, but two have had the boldness to remain and abide the consequences. The others have left Zurich for Paris, or Heidelberg.

The decree contained a gross assault upon the reputation of the students, and for grossness, calumny and meanness, is fully equal to any of those assaults that used to be made in this country upon young women who ventured to study medicine. The professors at Zurich, to their credit be it said, have published a defense, certifying the maligned students are known to them as admirable examples of diligence and modesty, and as living far above any reproach of immorality. After remarking that there was no necessity to come to Zurich for opportunities for an immoral life, they declare that having come, the young women certainly could not in such a case so assiduously

attend lectures and laboratories, from early in the morning till late at night, often pursuing study at home for hours beside.

The European press displays much feeling in the matter in behalf of the insulted students. It is manifestly a case of arbitrary interference. Some governments, like some men, can relinquish honorable controversy, and come down to a crusade against women. Such courage and magnanimity is to be duly appreciated. Emperor Alexander must be more insane than ever was his grandfather or imperial uncles, if he hopes to gain any thing in power or dignity by this decree. He will do better among the barbarians of Khiva. Despotism may be vain in desires for display; but the Romanoff will yet be compelled to emulate the Hapsburgh and preside as chief mourner at its funeral. A war against women seldom gains laurels.

Extract of Pinus Canadensis for Malignant Diphtheria.*

Since the first introduction of this *new medicine* I have taken much interest in observing its action.

The Pinus Canadensis has long been known to possess valuable Medicinal properties, yet its application has been limited; but under this special form it has been thoroughly tested in a great variety of diseased conditions. In fact, it appears to occupy such a wide range that it seems almost a newly-discovered agent.

Several medical journals contain valuable articles upon it, written by men whose opinions are entitled to high consideration; among these are Drs. J. Marion Sims, W. Walker, J. C. Whitehill, P. A. Morrow, O. E. Newton and others.

I can fully adopt all that these writers have said, having used this extensively in the diseases referred to by them; I have employed it in a large number of cases of the varied forms of ulceration with perfect satisfaction.

I have administered Kennedy's Concentrated Extract of P. Canadensis in the treatment of a disease one of the most dangerous and fatal that we have to contend with, with a success I had never met with before. The disease referred to is that of Malignant Diphtheria. I will give a single case to illustrate. Miss —, aged 18, was violently attacked with the symptoms which attend this disease in its most malignant stages. It had passed into what is regarded by the profession as the last and incurable stage; in fact, in thirty years' practice I have never

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**Extract from the Report of* ROBT. S. NEWTON, M. D., *on New Remedies, June* 25, 1873.

seen a case recover under any form of treatment where the local and constitutional condition of the system was like this. All the hectic symptoms were present; constant diarrhea, great emaciation, extreme prostration, fever of a typhoid character, the tongue and fauces heavily coated, extensive ulceration, almost impossible to swallow even the smallest quantity of Beef Tea, the anterior and posterior nares were completely obstructed by the peculiar secretions which attend such cases, and there was a constant purulent exudation of the most offensive character. I had the case under treatment from the commencement and the disease resisted every effort which I made by the ordinary means. In fact, the case was so alarming that little or nothing could be expected in the way of recovery. I made use of this remedy as follows:

R. Conc. Fluid ext. P. Canadensis ʒ *ij*,
Aqua pura ℥ *viii.*

Sig. One teaspoonful taken into the mouth allowing it to remain a few minutes and then to be ejected; immediately after which the same quantity was to be swallowed. This could only be done by great effort and the holding of the head in a position which favored the process of swallowing; this to be repeated every half hour until four doses of each have been taken, after which it was to be used once every hour. In three hours from the time the first spoonful was swallowed a change was manifested. The patient was able to swallow beef tea without so much pain and difficulty. In fifteen hours from the time the first dose was given there was a not a particle of the coating on the tongue to be discovered. The appearance of the ulcers was favorable and the nasal obstructions were entirely removed; the alarming symptoms subsided, and convalescence was fully established; recovery was rapid. I continued the use of the medicine, reducing its strength one-half and administering it at intervals of two hours for ten days, at which time all medicines were discontinued. I will repeat that at the time of beginning the use of this medicine the strength of the patient was so completely exhausted that she was unable to rise from her bed or to stand upon her feet. Without conjecturing why this agent, possessing in its chemical constituton the same properties contained in many other remedies, should be more successful, I must cordially recommend this preparation to the careful consideration of Medical Profession, especially in the treatment of this form of the desease.

Since writing the above, I have treated other cases presenting similar characteristics with like results.

The Eclectic Medical College.

The Winter Session will commence on the first Tuesday in October, 1873, (annually hereafter) and continue sixteen weeks. The Spring Session will commence on the first Tuesday in February (hereafter), and continue sixteen weeks.

We assure students of this college of as good opportunities for medical instruction as can be obtained at any similar institution in the United States. No medical college has so large a percentage of its graduates in successful and reputable practice. By that criterion we are willing to be tested.

The inducements to select New York for the place at which to prosecute the studies of medicine and surgery are not surpassed. Besides the regular daily lectures are also the advantages afforded by access to the general hospitals, of witnessing surgical operations, and observing different methods of treatment. All medical students are permitted, on procurement of the requisite tickets, to be present at the Bellevue cliniques, at regular periods each week.

The principles of medicine taught at this college, are those of the Reformed and Eclectic School. We are distinct, rather than exclusive, believing that we are right, and confident that we shall show good reason for that belief. No colleges, not of our faith, teach our Materia Medica or practice, or are willing that their students shall learn or adopt it. Hence we exist, and existing, inculcate the better, safer, more successful methods of treating the sick. We are Eclectic, in that we regard every doctrine and form of practice, and apply the apostolic rule; "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." While subscribing to the platform of the State and National Eclectic organizations we impose on no one any other Code of Ethics than the Golden Rule; "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even the same to them." No school

of Medicine, no Faculty or society is more liberal than that, whatever broadness or generosity may be avowed.

Our course of study and our requirements from students are no less right and thorough than in other institutes. We endeavor, however, to induce thinking and study, instead of cramming as a substitute; for we regard a collegiate course as the beginning rather than the goal or climax of a student's career.

The name Eclectic, which we do not shrink from, has been adopted for the reasons here indicated. It is appropriate because American Medical Reform is based on eclecticism, in every department. Our researches have not resulted, as adversaries love to assert, in a mere accumulation of material, but in the discovering of a large number of new and superior remedies, and we rejoice to add in the discarding of dangerous and noxious agents, for which more efficient and safer substitutes have been obtained; and thus a great and comprehensive system of medical practice has been organized, upon the basis of a wide, enlightened experience. Ours is the credit due for the discovery, proving and adoption of many new and important remedies from indigenous medicinal plants, and of the application of successful scientific methods of extracting their active principles, so as to render the agents equally efficient and more acceptable.

A distinctive and fundamental principle of the Eclectic School of Medicine is that no medicinal agent or course of treatment should be adopted, which impairs the vital power. The remedies which are safest and act most closely in accordance with physiological law should be preferred, sought and employed. This is the head and front of whatever "irregularity" has been imputed to us. We boldly assert that the fancied necessity for the employment of noxious medical agencies is a delusion. The terrible consequences following their use, which have been observed and acknowledged by distinguished medical teachers and practitioners, is a sufficient refutation of the plea that they are required. All necessary purposes can be effected, in our present stage of knowledge, imperfect as it may be, by remedies more harmless as well as efficacious; conse-

quently, we do not sanction the employment of mercurials, lead, arsenic, antimony, or the lancet. *Esse quam videri.*

Students will find opportunities for prosecuting anatomy, equal to those anywhere; the supply of material being abundant, and both the Professor and Demonstrator of Anatomy ready to give every needed assistance.

That veteran Eclectic instructor, Prof. J. R. Buchanan, widely and honorably known for his erudition, his extensive original investigations, and his many accomplishments, has accepted a post in our Faculty. He proposes to deliver a course of lectures upon anthropological science, now the object of extensive enquiry, though not embraced, as it should be, in the curriculum of a medical college.

The privileges and instructions of this institution are extended, as required by law, to female students. At Paris, Zurich, Hesse-Darmstadt, and other places in the Old World, and in the Medical Departments of the Syracuse University, and State Universities of Michigan and Iowa, and other enlightened schools, the same rule and practice apply, beneficially and successfully; and the public sentiment of the entire civilized world is fast taking form in favor of women as practitioners of the art of healing. Their instruction in the same schools with men operates no more prejudically to good morals, proficiency in study, and general advancement, than their presence in common schools, academic institutions, and in the home circle.

Students should be particular to provide themselves with the best text-books upon the principal sciences; avoiding all the quasi-scientific publications which were "made to sell." It is the province of instructors to aid them in reading and mastering their books, rather than in giving quotations of what ought to be in them. Eclectic and Reformed authors upon Materia Medica, Surgery, Obstetrics, the Theory and Practice of Medicine, should, of course, have the preference. We should refuse to "turn again to the weak and beggarly elements," or to be brought again in bondage to them. We represent a distinct school of medicine, and mean to present faithfully its distinctive views, aware that, "new wine is put into new bottles, and thus both are preserved." The cardinal

principle of liberality is consistency. But while thus strenuous in declaring our views, and purposes, we shall not "pluck" or in any other way deal dishonestly by any student that may not accept the sentiments and practice which we uphold.

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Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.

SAMUEL E. MORTIMORE, M. D.,
Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Requisites for Graduation.

CANDIDATES for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must present satisfactory evidence that they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are of good moral character; they must have studied medicine three years with some respectable practitioner, and have attended two full Courses of Lectures in some legally incorporated College—or they must have attended three Courses of Lectures and studied two years, the last of which shall have been attended in this College—or they must have been engaged in a constant and reputable practice of medicine for four years, and have attended one full Course of Lectures in this College.

Course of Instruction.

FEES.

Fees for a Full Course of Lectures	$100
Matriculation Fee	5
Demonstrator's Fee	5
Graduation Fee	30
Hospital Tickets	3
For certificate of Scholarship, for which the holder may attend two or more Courses of Lectures, or until graduation, to be paid in advance	150
For certificate of Scholarship, entitling the holder to keep a Student in the College for ten years	500
For certificate of Scholarship, entitling the holder to keep a Student in the College perpetually	1,000

Good board may be had in convenient proximity to the College for six or seven dollars a week. Students arriving in the city can check their baggage or call at the College, 223 East Twenty-sixth street, where they will be assisted in procuring suitable boarding places.

TEXT-BOOKS.

ANATOMY.—Gray; Wilson.

SURGERY.—Syme, by Newton; Erichsen; Gross; Hill; How.

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—King; Newton; Scudder; Bennett.

MATERIA MEDICA.—Coe; Jones and Scudder; American Dispensatory.

PHYSIOLOGY.—Dalton; Draper; Carpenter; Flint.

OBSTETRICS.—King; Ramsbotham; Cazeaux; Tyler Smith.

DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Newton and Powell; Scudder.

CHEMISTRY.—Gregory, by Sanders; Brande; Bowman; Miller; Draper.

PHARMACY.—King; Jones and Scudder; Coe; Parish; Proctor.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—Taylor; Beck.

Any further information may be obtained by addressing any member of the Faculty, or ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D., President of the Faculty, 137 West 47th St., New York City.

NAMES OF THE GRADUATES OF THIS COLLEGE FROM ITS COMMENCEMENT IN 1866 TO DATE.

1867.

Bricker, John.....Iowa.
Conway, John..... "
Dolley, Charles W.....Michigan.
Hayden, Wm. R.....New York.
Hayden, Maria B., Mrs.. "
Morrow, P. Albert.....Kentucky.
Merwin, William R.....Missouri.
Millington, Edwin H...New York.
Morris, James A.....New Jersey.
Mix, J. B., Mrs.....New York.
Pratt, Miss H. H.....New York.

AD-EUNDEM.

Boskowitz, Herman....New York.
Firth, H. E..... "
Henshall, James A.....Wisconsin.
Jackson, Joseph.....Mass.
Miles, Edwin C..... "
Prettyman, John S.....Delaware.
Smith, Dennis E.....New York.
Stow, B. J..... "
Sweet, Hill..... "
Wilcox, David..... "

1868.

*Andrews, E. B., Mrs..New York.
Bogart, D. P.....Canada.
Battleson, George.....New York.
Belknap, M. C..... "
Comins, James M..... "
Cooper, Henry C..... "
Callahan, Dennis.....Ohio.
Danelson, James E.....New York.
Danelson, Edwin J..... "
Day, James..... "
Firth, Lamser B.....New York.
Fitch, John H..... "
Geddes, William.....Mass.
Harvey, Elias.....New York.
Kunze, R. E..... "
*Lamb, George....New Brunswick.
Norton, H. L., Mrs.....Kentucky.
Nivison, Anna T.,.....New York.
Simons, O. H..... "
Teed Samuel R..... "

AD-EUNDEM.

Bowlsby, William H....New York.
Browne, J. M. F., LL. D. "
Gunning, J. H..... "
Hamilton, C. T.....New York.
Huyler, Edward P..... "
Jamieson, John..... "

HONORARY.

Fishblatt, E.....New York.
Plumbe, E. O..... "
Stanton, Lyman.....New York.
Skelten, John.....England.
Totman, Calvin S.....New York.

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* Deceased.

1869.

Allen, William A.....New York.
Archer, Charles H..... "
Archer, Mrs. H. E..... "
Archer, William..... "
Berry, T. C. S.....Maine.
Brown, Mrs. E. A....Massachusetts.
Chapman, Benj. F.....New York.
Cheesbrough, William D "
Linquist, M. F.....New York.
Miller, Isaac S..... "
Ostrander, Mrs. Zitella.. "
Roe, Sylvester, Jr..... "
Shattuck, L. A.....Maine.
Smith, Willis J.....New York.
Starr, George O..... "
Sweet, Homer L...New Hampshire.

AD-EUNDEM.

Dewitt, E. W.....Arkansas.
Geddes, R. W.....Massachusetts.
*Perkins, T. S.....Mass.

HONORARY.

Church, W. D.....Pennsylvania.
Crane, Oliver..... "
Hyde, John J.....New York.
Jones, William.....New York.
McCartney, John..... Ireland.
Tuthill, Samuel.....New York.

1870.

Banker, William.....New York.
Bronson, Charles H.... "
Dewey, Mary E., Miss.. "
Goodspeed, Helen A., Miss...Conn.
Hathaway, Maria, Mrs..New York.
Jackson, J. W. C.....Mass.
Kelly, Peter.....New York.
Mason, James J.....New York.
Miller, Marg't A., Mrs...New Jersey.
Phelps, Lovisa J., Mrs..New York.
*Rockwell, John M..... Conn.
Smith, LeRoy A..... "
Smith, Louise M., Miss..New York.
Van Kirk, Harriet P., Mrs. "

AD-EUNDEM.

Eaton, Edward Byron.....China.
Horton, John.....New York.
Jacobson, Adolphus E.. "
Myer, Jules de.....New Jersey.
Sprague, Romulus C.....Ill.
Wolff, Gabriel J.....New York.

HONORARY.

Browne, D. J., A. M.....Miss.
Dunkley, Wm. W...Liverpool, Eng.
Highett, Charles....London, Eng.
Markel, G. H.....Mass.
Webb, Edward L.....London, Eng.

1871.

Aisbett, Matthew S.....Penn.
Bishop, Midas E.....New York.
Chase, George W.....Mass.
Dickens, J. B. N..... "
Firth, Elizabeth, Mrs...New York.
Griffith, Joseph.....New Jersey
Gordon, Edward S....N. Carolina.
Hynan, Peter..... New York.
Jewett, Nathaniel.....Mass.
Morgan, Elihu..... "
Prankard, William.....New York.
Parks, Marie J., Mrs.....Indiana.
Ripley, Edwin..... .....Conn.
Ricker, Joseph T.....Ohio.
Simms, Joseph.....New York.

* Deceased.

AD-EUNDEM.

Aspinall, William.....England.
Bailey, Robert L..... "
Davidson, Samuel.....New York.
Lamb, George.....England.
Lewis, William.....England.
Preston, E. S.....New York.
Sohl, Henricus.....Mass.
Smythe, Wesley Samuel.... "
Smith, Wm. T. Y.....England.

HONORARY.

Carpenter, George W...New York.
Clark, Samuel.....Ill.
Fox, Albert.....New York.
Jacques, Joseph..... "
Johnson, W. S.....Vermont.
Morehouse, E. M.....Minnesota.
Price, Clarence V.....Ill.
Sharp, James J.....New York.

1872.

Cady, Harriett E., Miss.New York.
De Baun, Alice, Mrs...New Jersey.
Davis, Eber E.....New York.
Dickenson, Martha.....Conn.
Ensign, Jennie, Mrs.....New York.
Gaudern, Richard.....Ohio.
Lacy, Mary L. W. Mrs..New York.
Pratt, Seraphina, Mrs.....Conn.
Rich, Francis M.....New York.
Ralston, Annie, Mrs.....Conn.
Young, William H.....Vermont.

AD-EUNDEM.

Adams, Henry, L. R. C. P.....London, England.
Fitzgerald, A., F. R. C. S..... " "

HONORARY.

Brooks, Abel D.....New York.
Borden, L. H.....New Jersey.
Goodale, J. R.....Rhode Island.
Jordan, Philip J.....Phil'a, Penn.
Jordan, Lewis J...New York City.

1873.

Allen, Henry A.....New York.
Bond, Mary E., Miss.... "
Borden, D. P.....New Jersey.
Cahill, Henry H.....New York.
Clowe, William..... "
Crans, A. F..... "
Dye, John H..... "
Gaillard, D. A..... "
Granger, T. A.....New York.
Griswold, Charles E.... "
Holland Mary A., Mrs.. "
Jarvis, Wallace..... "
La Mont, James..... "
Munn, Howard E.....Conn.
Mortimore, Sam'l E....New York.
Nivison, Mary C., Mrs.. "
Simmons, George.....New York.

AD-EUNDEM.

Butterfield, E. F.....New York.
Baker, Horace S.....Mich.

HONORARY.

Shewell, Elizabeth A., Mrs...Mass.
Fletcher, George.....New York.

Appointments for 1873–4.

Attica, N. Y., August 2d, 1873.

PROF. R. S. NEWTON,

Dear Sir:

I have made the following appointments, and hope that they will prove acceptable:

Essayists.—Drs. J. H. Dye, Alexander Wilder.

Operative Surgery.—Drs. R. A. Gunn, M. M. Fenner.

Surgical Diseases.—Drs. R. S. Newton, Henry Preston, J. H. Johnson.

Materia Medica.—Drs. E. S. McClellan, J. H. Dye, Josiah Arnold, A. P. Parsons.

Physiology.—Drs. Jos. R. Buchanan, E. B. Foote.

Chemistry and Pharmacy.—Drs. W. R. Hayden, C. S. Gauntt, H. C. Gazlay..

Clinical Medicine.—Drs. James Y. Tuthill, H. E. Firth, E. S. Preston, Joel C. Hulbert, Calvin S. Totman.

Medical Hygiene.—Drs. Jos. R. Buchanan, Dennis E. Smith, Maria B. Hayden.

New Remedies.—Drs. W. B. Hayden, E. S. McClellan, R. S. Newton, J. Edwin Danelson.

Theory and Practice of Medicine.—Drs. Paul W. Allen, O. H. Simons, Maria B. Hayden, C. C. Johnson.

Obstetrics.—Drs. Helen A. Goodspeed, V. A. Baker, M. B. Hayden M. M. Fenner.

Medical Instruction and Eclectic Medical Institutions.—Drs. E. B. Foote, H. E. Firth, R. A. Gunn, Paul W. Allen, B. J. Stow.

Psychological Medicine. Dr. Jos. R. Buchanan.

Statistics of Eclectic Medicine.—Dr. Alexander Wilder.

Therapeutic Action of Medicines.—J. H. Dye.

Zymotic Peritonitis.—Dr. Helen A. Goodspeed.

Gynecology.—Dr. H. E. Firth.

Remedial Uses of Phytolacca Decandria.—Dr. Harman Pease.

Insanity.—Dr. L. Robens.

Committee of Arrangements.—Drs. Benj. J. Stow, R. A. Gunn.

Delegates to the National Convention.—Drs. R. A. Gunn, W. R. Hayden, R. S. Newton, Benj. J. Stow, E. B. Foote, R. E. Kunzé.

Report on State Eclectic Journals.—Dr. E. B. Foote.

N. B. The Society will meet in Albany, New York, on Wednesday, January 28th, 1874.

ORIN DAVIS, M. D.,

President of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York.

THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D., ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

EDITORS.

VOL. I. NOVEMBER 15, 1873. No. 2.

"Hereby know we the spirit of Truth and the spirit of Error."
1 John iv: 6.

Indebtedness to Eclecticism.

The Reformed School of Medicine, with its peculiar modes of treatment, was born of the inexorable purpose of the people of our country, to have a safe, as well as scientific method of practice.

Its doctrines, however, are older than the nineteenth century; the principles on which it is based, extend back even into the early twilight of our history, but as a corporiety, an organization, it only claims a date within a recent period. We have never hesitated to acknowledge its relationship to the several schools of medicine that were based upon a protest against the objectionable practice that is obtrusively denominated "regular." Its essential elements consisted in the truths which it collected. It owed much to Samuel Thomson, who taught the discarding of mineral poisons and venesection, and the invigorating of the patient. Many are ready in their grateful candor to apply to him qualifiedly the words of Jesus: "There hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist; notwithstanding any person of inferior rank in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." Others have made contributions, which we value more highly.

We accept everything so far as we can assimilate it; we are not aspiring to crystallize, but rather to grow. It is noteworthy that the Eclectic Practice has virtually absorbed all the schools of Medicine originating on this continent, which began with a protest against the fossilizing practice of the Old School. Homœopathy and Hydropathy continue, and are to an important degree, fellow-helpers in the healing art.

What has been accomplished? "The stone which the builders rejected, the same has become the head of the corner."

Within the life-time of the majority of our readers, there has been an almost total revolution in the method of treating the sick. The former hypothesis of excess of vitality is exploded, and no intelligent practitioner now ventures upon the depletion of patients. The lancet belongs to the Past. The sustaining of the vital powers under the assaults of disease is regarded as the more appropriate study of the physician. Medicines are employed with reference to that end. Even the members of that school who assert themselves to be "regular," who assume for their order a papal infallibility and superciliously denounce as empirics and charlatans, all who have not received their mark, many of them in submission to the demand of their patients have adopted these modifications in practice as well as the very remedies which they had before rejected. The mandrake, golden seal, baptisia, gelseminum, veratrum viride, stillingia, and the whole array of resinous educts, have become "officinal."

Thus has the New School of Medicine already, in its therapeutics and materia medica, become an instructor to every diverse and rival sect. Homœopathists and Old School practitioners have alike enriched themselves from its contributions to science. We acknowledge no necessity to go back to the Middle Ages for our authority and charter any more than we would apply to a court of heraldry to obtain the ensigns of nobility. Men in our country make history for themselves, they cut their own way to franchises and rights divine, and if there is a divinity to shape our ends, they hew a course for it with their own hands.

We are the representatives of the revolution which is over-

turning the barbarous dominion characterized by sick-room tortures and poisonous medication, which now requires practical results, rather than a learned technology, and makes the recovery of the sick rather than the display of the tinsel of erudition, the test of merit. We are not to be overborne by any reproach or contumely because of our origin. Antæus, when engaged in deadly conflict with Hercules, always returned to the attack with vigor, when falling upon the bosom of his mother, the earth, he could thereby resuscitate his strength. The Eclectics, however overborne, will always hold their own, so long as they can amid all the odds, remain the humble physicians of the people.

Like President Emilio Castelar, we may have the Bourbon of the old *regime* and the anarchist of the New to encounter in our contest; but the right is with us and we shall be vindicated.

A few years ago, several of the leading members of the New York County Medical Society, at a regular monthly meeting, spoke very earnestly in favor of reviving the obsolescent practice of venesection. To be sure the pretext was but feebly made of healing anything by this expedient. Relief from blood-vessel pressure was the end declared to be sought for.

About the same time, some professed Eclectics in this town, recommended a return to the use of mercurials; not, to be sure, on the "Samson principle" of our Old School neighbors, but in a quiet, covert way, apparently hoping to get off unnoticed, on principles analogous with that displayed in the argument of the young woman with her unwelcome babe, "It was such a little one."

It is endeavored to disguise these delinquencies by the pretence that they pertain to Liberal Medicine, which is fulsomely eulogized as being of a grade higher than Reformed practice. We care not to affiliate with such forms of liberalism, which seem to lack the substance; but adopt instead the apostrophe of Madame Roland as she stood on the scaffold: "O Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name!"

Cactus.

BY RICHARD E. KUNZÉ, M. D.

Natural Order: 43. *Cactaceæ.*

Botanical Description.

The Cactus family are fleshy and thickened; mostly leafless plants, of peculiar aspect, globular or columnar and many-angled, or flattened and jointed, usually with prickles. Flowers solitary sessile; the sepals and petals numerous, imbricated in several rows, adherent to the one-celled ovary. Stamens numerous, with long and slender filaments, inserted on the inside of the tube or cup formed by the union of the sepals and petals. Style 1: stigmas numerous. Fruit a one-celled berry, with numerous campylotropous seeds on several parietal placentæ.

History.

Cactus is a Greek word, signifying prickly, under the name Theophrastus describes a spiny plant, an article of food, which grew in Southern Europe. It belongs to the consolidated forms of vegetation, which are formed on the plan of the least possible amount of surface in proportion to their bulk, and are evidently adapted and designed for very dry regions; and in such only are they found. A green rind serves the purpose as foliage. This genus consists of succulent plants, permanent in duration, singular and various in structure; generally without leaves, and having the stem or branches jointed; for the most part armed with spines in bundles, with which in many species, bristles are intermixed. These bundles of spines are placed on the top of the tubercles in the smaller Melon thistle or Cactus Mamilaria, which is tubercled all over and produces its flowers between the tubercles. In the great Melon Cactus, (Melo Cactus,) the spines are ranged in a single row on the ridge of the ribs. These are of an ovate or globular form. The Torch thistle or columnar Cactus (Cereus), on the contrary, are slender, rise up high, are jointed and branched, many of them are almost cylindrical, with from 5 to 10 shallow

ribs; some however are square or three-cornered. The structure of the creeping Cerei is the same with these, except that the stems are weak and cannot support themselves; they therefore seek support from trees and throw out roots from the stem, like ivy. In the prickly pear or Indian Fig (Opuntia) the branches are jointed and flattened like the sole of a shoe; the bundles of spines or bristles are scattered all over the surface and the flowers are produced from the edge of the extreme branches. In the Epiphyllum, the branches are thinner with shorter and flatter joints and they are indented along the edge; the flowers come out singly from the indentures. This genus seldom has any spines. Pereskia or Barbadoes Gooseberry, has a round stock with leafy branches; the leaves are alternate, flat and thick; the prickles are large and stiff and come out in bundles on the stock and branches, chiefly at the axils; the flowers are produced several together from the axils also. In this and the Prickly Pear Cactus, the flowers are pitcher-shaped; in the other genera they are subcylindrical and longer; in the Epiphyllum, very long. The fruit in some of the sorts is small, like currants; but in most it is larger and shaped like a pear or fig, whence their name Prickly Pear or Indian Fig. Cacti thrive in arid regions, such as sandy deserts on rocky soil or limestone formation, which we find in coral reefs along our South Atlantic and Pacific Coast. And they belong to such countries as Southern Africa, South and Central America, Mexico, California, Arizona, etc., which have a long hot season with little or no rain, when their stalks and foliage above and their roots beneath being early cut off by drought, the plants rest securely in their compact bulbs, filled with nourishment and retaining their moisture with great tenacity, until the rainy season comes around. Then they shoot forth leafy stems and flowers with wonderful rapidity, and what was perhaps a desert of arid sand becomes green with foliage and gay with blossoms, almost in a day.

During the last decade the virtues of Cactus as a remedial agent were first brought to the notice of the Medical Profession; and notwithstanding its reputed efficacy in cardiac affections, our works on Materia Medica, new medicines and Botany

gave but a meagre account of this valuable drug and scarcely any general description of the plant itself. All of what we knew about it, had been copied from homœopathic literature with the single exception of the descriptive part; to accord it that position in our Materia Medica, which its well-attested merits deserved, much more information was needed. During the past five years I have searched, studied and utilized all the information I could find upon the subject, and have been enabled to present, if not any new facts, at least a correct history of the plant in a descriptive, historical and medicinal point of view also I have given a trustworthy account of what I know myself and that which I obtained from my esteemed friend, Mr. Isaac Buchanan, the learned and most extensive florist of this City, whose large collection of Cacti and unlimited freedom of access thereto at his extensive green-houses in Astoria, L. I., have assisted me considerable in recording that which our works on the subject failed to give. A unique little collection of Cacti, presented to me by Mr. I. Buchanan and Mr. Wm. Baker, an amateur of tropical and other rare plants, also of this City, have been of much value to me in confirming information obtained elsewhere and without which much of the interest I have bestowed upon it, would have been lost.

This curious tribe of plants comprises 8 or more genera and these are subdivided into 800 different species, most all of them natives of America and the West Indies. Cactean plants are divided into the following genera:

Melocactus,
Echinocactus,
Echinopsis,
Mamillaria,
Cereus,
Epiphyllum,
Opuntia,
Leuchtenbergia,
Pereskia,
Rhipsalis,
Lepismium and other sub-Genera.

Description of Genera:

Melocactus.—Also called Melon Cactus, or Melon Thistle, from its resemblance to a melon. Habitat: West Indies, South America.

Echinocactus.—From *Echinos*, the sea urchin, *cactus*, spiny shape; globose or roundish oblong. Habitat: Mexico, Chili and Brazil.

Echinopsis.—From *Echinos*, a hedgehog, *opsis*, resemblance. It does not differ much from Echinocactus. Shape; ovate globose or globose depressed. Habitat: Porto Rico and Chili.

Mamillaria.—So named from Mammilla, a nipple or tubercle, being covered all over with tubercles. Shape: oblong cylindrical, oval cylindrical and globose subcylindrical. Habitat: Mexico and Chili.

Cereus.—From *Cereus* a torch or taper; from its resemblance of the joints to such; shape, columnar, cylindrical, roundish and angular. Habitat: Brazil, Mexico, West Indies and Central America.

Epiphyllum or *Crabsclaw Cactus.*—From *Epi*, upon *phyllon*, a leaf; on account of the flowers appearing upon its leaves. Shape; branches are flat, foliaceous, ensiform or obovate truncate, often crenated or repandly toothed. Habitat: Brazil, South America, Mexico and Honduras.

Opuntia.—Generally known as Prickly Pear and Indian Fig. Branches resembling the palm of a hand or the sole of a shoe. The plant appears like a series of thick succulent leaves, one growing from the top of one another. Habitat: North, South and Central America, Mexico, West Indies and Southern Europe.

Leuchtenbergia.—Named in honor of Prince Leuchtenberg, said to have had the largest collection of Cacti in Europe. Shape; shrub, fleshy cylindrical, Mamillæ, elongated leaf-formed triquetrous truncate. Habitat: Mexico.

Pereskia.—Called the Barbadoes Gooseberry. Shape, joints ovate, oblong or leaves elliptical and fleshy. Habitat: Mexico and West Indies.

Rhipsalis or Coral Cactus.—Resembling a leafless willow

branch, in allusion to the flexible decumbent branches of this genus. Habitat: South America, West Indies and Africa.

Lepismium.—From *Lepis*, a scale, having such at crenatures. Shape; joints elongated, slender, angular, erect or suberect and margins crenulated. Habitat: Brazil.

Description of Species.

In order to be brief, I will attempt to describe a few species only of those genera, which have been utilized by mankind and serve the inhabitants of countries wherein Cacti grow, not only as an article of food, but furthermore, as fuel and various other purposes. That many of them are medicinal, I have not the least doubt, and having tried a few new species myself, not heretofore mentioned, I hope to stimulate other therapeutists in following up this wide field for the development of their remedial effects.

Cactus Melocactus, the great Melon cactus or Turks' cap, appears like a large fleshy green melon, with deep rips, set all over with strong sharp thorns. When it is cut through the middle, the inside is found to be soft, green, fleshy substance, very full of moisture. The flowers and fruit are produced in circles around the upper part of the cap. The flowers are bell-shaped and of deep crimson color, the same as the fruit, which is rather of an elongated form and of the size of a pigeon's egg. Some of those which have been brought here, have been more than a yard in circumference and two and a half feet high. In the West Indies there are plants nearly twice as large, and quite recently several weighing 600 lbs. each, were shipped from this port to Europe. They grow upon the steep sides of rocks in the hottest parts of America, where they seem to be thrust out of the apertures, having little or no earth to support them; their roots shooting down into the fissures of the rocks to a considerable depth, so that it is troublesome to get the plant up. As they delight in such rocky places, they seldom live long when transplanted into a better soil. In times of great drouth the cattle repair to the barren rocks where these plants grow, rip them up with their horns, tear off the outside

skin and greedily devour all the fleshy moist part. The fruit is frequently eaten by the inhabitants of the West Indies. It is of an agreeable acid taste.

Echinocactus Visnaga. This wonderful plant was found in Mexico, at San Louis Potosi, and is one of the largest and most remarkable of the Cactus family. In its native country it bears the name of Visnaga, signifying a tooth-pick among the Mexican settlers, who use the spines for that purpose. The original plant was 9 feet high and 9 and a half feet in circumference. It weighed a tun. This specimen had been sent to the Botanic Garden at Kew, England, where after a year of apparent health it exhibited symptoms of internal decay, the inside became a putrid mass and the crust or shell fell by its own weight. It produces its flowers on the edge of the ribs, not very far from the top of the plant.

Echinocactus Wislizeni is found in Arizona and Mexico, where it is called by the Spaniards, Biznacha, and being 20 inches or more in diameter, a section of the stem is often employed as a cooking vessel. The seeds are small and black, but when parched and pulverized, make good gruel and even bread. The pulp of the fruit is rather sour and not so much eaten as the prickly pear. Travelers in passing through the cactus wastes often resort to this plant to quench their thirst, its interior centaining a soft white watery substance, of slightly acid taste, which is rather pleasant when chewed. Plants may be seen on each side of the road, with a large perforation made by the thirsty traveler. An Indian, when traveling and wishing to make a meal, selects a large plant, 3 feet or more long and 2 in diameter, cuts it down and hollows it out so as to form a trough; into this he throws the soft portions of the pulpy substance which surrounds the central woody axis, and adds meat, roots, seed, meal, fruits or anything edible on hand; water is added, and the whole mixed together; stones are then highly heated and dropped into the mixture, and as they cool, are taken out, licked clean, reheated and returned to the cooking vessel, until the mixture is thoroughly boiled. This is a favorite dish with the Yabapais and Apaches of Arizona. The Papajo Indians pare off the

rind and thorns of large plants of this species of cactus, letting it remain several days to bleed, when the pulp is pared down to the woody axis, cut up into suitable pieces, and boiled in a sirup made from the fruit of *Cereus giganteus* or *Cereus Thurberi*. If a kind of sugar which is made by the Mexicans is attainable, it is employed instead of the sirup, thus forming a good preserve. These pieces, when taken out of the liquid, and dried, are as good as candied citron, which they much resemble in taste and substance.

Mamillaria as a genus do not present any very striking characteristics, neither are their flowers so gorgeous and large as these of the Cereus and Epiphyllum. Their compact bodies, whether round or elongated, are thickly studded with tubercles, from the ends of which the spines or bristles project. The small flowers, many of which are bell shaped, and white in color, are produced from between the tubercles as well as its diminutive fruit or scarlet berries. This latter is about the size of the tubercles.

Cereus grandiflorus (*Verus*) Synonyme; *Cactus grandiflorus*, or night-blooming Cereus is the noblest of all the Cactus tribe, so far as it relates to their flowers, which are of remarkable beauty and fragrance. When arrived to a sufficient strength, it will produce many exceedingly large, beautiful sweet-scented flowers, like most of this kind, of very short duration, scarcely continuing 6 hours full blown; nor do the flowers ever open again when once closed. They begin to open between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening, are fully blown by 11, and by 3 or 4 in the morning they fade, and hang down quite decayed; but during their short continuance, there is scarcely any flower of greater beauty, or that makes a more magnificent appearance. The calyx of the flower, when open, is near a foot in diameter; the inside of which, being of a splendid yellow color, appears like the rays of a bright star, the outside is of a dark drown, and the petals being of a pure white, add to the luster; the vast number of recurved stamens surrounding the style in the centre of the flower make a fine appearance; add to all this the fine scent of the flower, which perfumes the air to a considerable distance around. There is

scarcely any plant which deserves a place in a hot-house so much as this, especially as it may be trained against the wall, in the manner of a vine, not taking up much room. The usual season of its flowering is in July, and when plants are large, many flowers will open the same night, and there will be a succession of them for several nights together. Another strange feature of this, as well as other night-blooming cacti is, that its mature flower-buds do not emit any fragrance in the daytime. It is not succeeded, in cultivation, by any appearance of fruit. This in its native haunts of Jamaica is of a beautiful violet and yellow color, as long as a good-sized plum. The joints or stems are from ½ to 2 inches in diameter, 7-angled or more, and from its creeping habit ascends any convenient tree or shrubbery, often covering up its neighbor to such an extent with its luxuriant shoots and flowers, that it is with difficulty ascertained whether the object you behold is a cactus or any other tree. And this holds good with many of the creeping, trailing and slender species of Cerei, which also for want of a better support oftentimes overrun the ground and rocks above. Here they trail like serpents over the ground, and twine themselves in knotty coils around fallen trunks, and among the crevices of the barren rocks. Others hang like ropes from the limbs of over-shadowing trees, and often present impenetrable jungles to man or beast. This *Cereus grandiflorus* is the one so highly extolled as a remedy in certain diseases of the heart, of which more hereafter. It inhabits Jamaica, W. I., and is cultivated for the beauty of its flowers in adjacent Islands, as well as in Europe.

To be continued.

New York, Oct., 1873.

NEW THEORY OF FEVER.—Dr. Maclagen of Dundee, rejects the teachings of Virchow in relation to fever, as the result of tissue-change; but in a paper in the *Lancet*, imputes it to the propagation in the system of minute animal organisms. Its treatment, he affirms, should essentially consist in sustaining the vital energies, and in getting into the system all the nourishment we possibly can. "Meddlesome medication is bad."

Surgical Improvements.

BY ROBERT S. NEWTON.

In our paper on "*The Future of Surgery,*" (MEDICAL ECLECTIC, Vol. 1, No. 1,) we asserted what has not been and cannot truthfully be controverted, that Eclectic surgeons, and especially those graduating from the Eclectic College of the City of New York, compared favorably with operators in other schools. The noxious and abominable lotions, salves and ointments, leprous with mercury, arsenic, antimony and lead, have been laid aside; and we have endeavored, with greater or less of success, to lay aside the cumbrous scientific apparel, which served to embarrass rather than aid or facilitate our movements. We are aware that with the superficial and ill-disposed, this is equivalent to a surrender of reputation for actual skill and knowledge. We have not been excepted from calumnious and malignant attack on the pretext thus afforded. But, we repeat, the greatest achievements of Eclectic surgery have been the triumphs of peace, won in silence without the sounding of trumpets and the applause of multitudes. These are generally reserved for him who has marked his progress by devastation. The true surgeon seldom makes himself glorious by display of costly instruments and the other paraphernalia for maiming and torturing the human body; but instead, labors quietly and generally unpraised, to obviate the necessity for extreme measures. His is the golden skill that protects the patient.

Sir James Y. Simpson, himself a protestant against the abuse of Old Surgery as well as Old Physic, anticipated a period when practitioners would look upon the cure of some maladies as simply a series of chemical problems and formulas; melt down all calculi, necrosed bones, etc., chemically, and not remove them by surgical operations; stop bleeding in amputations and other wounds, not by septic ligatures or stupid needles, but by the simple application of hæmastatic gases or washes, and healing the few wounds required in surgery by

the first intention. In this spirit have we labored. Our progress has not been inconsiderable, as we hope to show; and we think that it has been made in the right direction. We will present examples.

Among the appliances of enlightened surgery in the treatment of fractures and dislocations, the dry bandage must be instanced among the more beneficial. It exonerates the patient from a vast amount of discomfort and suffering, a single dressing often proving sufficient, without changing, till all such appliances are unnecessary. Those who have used the wet bandage have often been annoyed and embarrassed by the necessity of frequently changing them to avoid blistering and suppuration. The dry bandage is a feature of American Eclectic Surgery.

The ligature has been by our practitioners successfully substituted for the knife in its treatment of fistula and hemorrhoidal affections. As a humane improvement, no less than an advantageous one, it cannot be prized too highly. In a practice of over thirty years we have not failed to cure incomplete anal fistula with sulphate of zinc; and have never used the knife in a case of complete fistula. We have witnessed numerous failures where it had been used; but except where there was complicated disorder or constitutional impairment, we have never failed with the ligature.

The use of the salts of zinc in surgical cases, has opened a new epoch in the art. They constitute the best known agents, when applied after amputations and incisions, to arrest gangrene, or to remove it when it has been superinduced, and so restore a healthy condition. In cancer, they constitute our principal dependence. In the milder or superficial forms they effectually destroy the morbific elements, and prepare the parts for healing; and where large masses of the diseased substance have been removed by excision, they are the main dependence of the surgeon for the subsequent treatment. What has been achieved in the successful treating of this terrible malady, heretofore regarded as always incurable, is to be attributed to the employment of this agent. In the true spirit of eclecticism, we hope yet to discover other as effective and more gentle remedies, and even a preventive; and indeed many such have

been suggested with more or less plausibility in their favor. But whatever may come, we herald zinc as the pioneer, the employment of which has rendered surgeons hopeful in being able to treat these affections successfully.

The following cases of treatment of scirrhous and fungous cancer with sulphate of zinc both illustrate and demonstrate the correctness of these views:

Miss B——, of Paterson, N. J., was examined January 27th, 1872. The entire left breast was involved in a cancer tumor, that measured twenty-nine inches in circumference at its base, and nine and a half inches from base to apex. She first noticed a small tumor in the breast about two years previously, which had steadily increased. She suffered terrible pain, and her health was very much impaired. Natural sleep was impossible, and the physicians whom she consulted declared that she could not live.

On account of the great size of the tumor it was deemed expedient to remove it with the knife, and afterwards apply the salts of zinc. The operation was performed on Feb. 17th. Immediately after the administration of chloroform and ligaturing the arteries, I applied to the entire open and bleeding surface, a saturated solution of sulphate of zinc, until the hemorrhage was averted and the entire parts were thoroughly cauterised, producing a dryness of the wound which was now turned white. A dressing of water was immediately applied and continued twenty-four hours. Then we again employed the sulphate of zinc in a weaker solution. After this we continued the water dressing, alternating with it as occasion required, the use of the zinc. Granulation began after the second application of zinc; and in three months the cure was complete. The tumor weighed thirteen and a half pounds, and on examination presented the usual pathological conditions of cancer of the breast. The patient continues well.

The second case was thus reported in the New York *Tribune*:

In August, 1865, we witnessed, in company with several of the journalists of this city, the removal of a terrible encephaloid cancer, involving the entire left eye of William Kenna, a child

of about five years of age. The case had been examined by many of the leading surgeons of the city, and all had pronounced the case beyond all possibility of cure. The operation was performed by Dr. Robert S. Newton, and a perfect cure was effected. Notwithstanding the statement by all surgical writers that such a case was never known to have lived through the first year after an operation had been performed, we saw Master Kenna a few days since, now over six years since the operation was performed, and he was one of the most hardy and robust lads we have seen for many a day. This cure was the result of a method of treatment discovered and developed by this eminent eclectic surgeon.

Young Kenna at this time, (September, 1873,) enjoys perfect health, never having suffered from any recurrence of the disease. This case was reported and illustrated in 1868, in the Second Volume of the Transactions of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York. In this case the ball of the eye was removed and the socket cleared of morbid material as well as could be done with the knife; the zinc applied and the patient treated the same as the other.

The chemical affinity of the salts of zinc for the albuminous material of the cancer, causes a portion of it to be retained in combination, so that it is not entirely eliminated by the suppuration and sloughing. It gives a peculiar green color to the purulent discharge and stains the cloths used in dressing the sore. By being thus retained in chemical union with the material of the cancer, it effectually destroys its vitality. This appears to be the rationale of this mode of treatment.

In the matter of diseased bones, our surgery has been able to achieve triumphs equally marked. Dissection and amputation have been rendered unnecessary, and it is now understood by enlightened practitioners, that any form of such an ailment may be successfully encountered, and the parts saved or restored. We have taken out the upper third of the tibia, the lower third of the femur, the upper third of the humerus, the entire shaft in each one being removed, but the articulations were not involved. Under proper treatment, the shaft will not loosen till the new bone is sufficiently formed to supply its place, thus enabling the leg or arm to perform its functions.

These are achievements of enlightened surgery. They often win less notoriety than capital operations, and less reputation for the practitioner.. But they are victories of peace, and humanity is benefitted by them. We are proud that, as our school has taken its full share in winning them, we have borne our part humbly but not unsuccessfully; and our recompense is that our students and fellow-laborers, are doing their full part of the good work because of their achievements.

Uses of Chloral Hydrate.

BY ALEXANDER WILDER.

The hydrate of chloral, which, for a season, was extensively employed as an anæsthetic, appears to have been by general consent let alone. Like the agent chloroform, which it was desired to supersede, it has been found in a great degree unreliable and unsafe. We have found it admirable in cases of severe suffering from neuralgia and local inflammation, and even common nervousness; but have observed a mental depression supervene, which seemed worse than the original trouble. If this sequence is a part of its effects, it is alone sufficient reason for the disuse of the drug.

But there are on record observations which go far to indicate that it should not be wholly discarded. In midwifery it appears to have great value. The conditions of its use are imperative, however; and probably ignorance or disregard of them has been the occasion of its failure, and some of the unfavorable results. The patient must be surrounded by conditions tending to perfect repose of mind and body; and when there has been great previous excitement, great caution is required.

It will not supersede chloroform, either in surgical operations or in midwifery; but at the most, can only restrict the use of that agent. It may, under favorable circumstances, be administered during the second stage of parturition, and at the close of it, producing unconsciousness like that induced by chloroform; and in this has the advantage of requiring no interference with the patient. Indeed, a labor can be conducted throughout, without consciousness on the part of the patient, under the influence of chloral. Whenever chloroform

is given, the employment of chloral does not interfere with its exhibition. The effects of chloral continue beyond the period of the completed parturition, facilitating the repose so salutary to the patient at that time. Whatever stimulating effects, in the form of general excitability, appear during the administration, generally pass away very rapidly.

Uterine contraction is promoted by its use, probably by the suspending of all reflex actions which tend to counteract the excitability of the centres of organic motion. Labors are also somewhat abbreviated, for unconscious contractions appear to be more effective than those which are accompanied by the sensation of pain.

But the administration must be at intervals, and not in large amounts at once. Ten to fifteen grains every fifteen or twenty minutes, till some effect is observed, is far better, as a rule, than any single sufficient dose, and involves far less risk. Acid in the stomach or intestines, must, however, be neutralized before it is administered; and a few grains of calcined magnesia or bicarbonate of soda may be given in advance with benefit. The rules of Sir James Y. Simpson in regard to the use of chloroform apply equally to chloral.

The hydrate appears to have a specific influence upon the different organs and surfaces of the lower abdomen. We have observed it act beneficially in affections of the bladder; it seemed to operate specifically in subduing peritoneal inflammation. In the *Medical and Surgical Reporter*, for August, 1870, is the report by Dr. T. F. Morse, of an extraordinary cure of rupture of the womb, in which chloral appears to have acted the principal part.

On the 27th of February, 1870, he states, he was called to attend in labor, a German woman of small, almost dwarfish stature. An examination disclosed a breech-presentation. As the labor was proceeding normally, and bade fair to be tedious, he went away, returning a few hours later. He now found the pains very frequent and violent, and observed a constant escape of meconium. The mouth of the womb was fully dilated, and the breech firmly impacted in the pelvis. There were no symptoms of exhaustion noticed; and the presenting

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parts continuing to advance slowly, he did not venture to interfere.

The pains were remarkably violent. Suddenly the woman uttered a sharp, terrible cry, and complained of intense pain in the lower part of the abdomen. The presenting part immediately receded, and it was evident that a rupture of the uterus had taken place. Syncope now supervened; a priest was called, who performed the last rites of religion.

She now revived, and appealed to the physician to relieve her, if possible, from her agony. He informed her of the probability of a fatal termination to her sufferings, and proceeded to deliver the infant. Only the lower part of the body of the child had passed into the pelvic cavity. The rent extended along the anterior wall from the fundus to the os, and communicated with the bladder. Delivery was accomplished by passing the hand through the torn space, finding the feet, and bringing them down separately. After it was completed, the hand was again introduced to ascertain whether any portion of intestine was entangled there, and a large clot of blood was removed. The child, a boy of more than twelve pounds' weight, was of course dead.

The only idea now entertained was to render the patient as comfortable as possible, during the few remaining hours of life. Thirty grains of hydrate of chloral in solution were administered at once; and a weaker solution was ordered to be given at intervals to keep up the influence. The next day the abdomen was found to be enormously distended and tympanitic; pulse 130; the face pinched and expressive of great exhaustion. The chloral was continued, and turpentine stupes were applied over the abdomen.

The patient dozed most of the time during the day, but was easily roused. The following morning the abdomen was found to be somewhat less distended, and the pulse had fallen to 80. Twenty-four hours later there was a still greater improvement, and the abdomen was softer and less painful under pressure. The third day, seventy-two hours after delivery, there was such a marked improvement, that the patient was considered to be out of danger. She continued to improve; and in three weeks, was about her usual avocations. She suffered, however,

from debility, and there remained a fistulous opening in the bladder. She became an inmate of St. Mary's Hospital, at Cincinnati, some months afterward, to be treated for this annoying condition.

In this case, the hydrate of chloral appears to have been of signal benefit in subduing the inflammation of the peritoneum which would otherwise of itself, independent of the deadly injuries to the womb, have been sufficient to assure a fatal termination.

In various forms of insanity likewise chloral has been found to be invaluable. Dr. S. W. D. Williams, in the London *Medical Record*, makes extended observations in regard to its use at the Asylum in Sussex, England. In acute mania a slight dose is followed by the happiest result. A patient that in the evening is violent and excited, or worn out from want of rest, will, after taking thirty, forty or sixty grains of chloral, obtain eight or ten hours of sleep, and seem very much improved. The restlessness, however, will return; but a smaller dose is now productive of the beneficial results. In acute mania it is better to limit its use to the night; and in these uses one large dose in preferable to two or three smaller ones.

In that form of chronic mania verging on dementia, and accompanied by distinctive habits, the chloral hydrate has no equal, and its use may be continued many months without affecting the general health. In melancholia it is of less value.

Dr. Sainter reported a case of hydrophobia in the London *Lancet* of April 20, 1872, which was cured by the free use of chloral. It has also been used in traumatic tetanus with success, both alone and accompanied by belladona, Calabar bean, and bromide of potassium. Dr. McDowell found it to work admirably in a case of puerperal convulsions and mania.

Dr. Williams is uncertain as to what constitutes a poisonous dose. A delicate female accidentally took one hundred and five grains in one draught, and slept twenty-four hours, and was somnolent twenty-four hours longer. Sometimes it fails to produce any effects at all; but an alkali will remove that difficulty.

Remarkable Cure by Alcohol.

COMMUNICATED BY W. H. BURNHAM, M. D.

On the 10th of October, 1864, while engaged in practice at Baraboo, Wisconsin, I was attacked by severe pains in the breast, apparently of a pleuritic character. The treatment employed was that of active vesication carried beyond counter-irritation to the point of copious local depletion. I continued, meanwhile, to pursue my business, till at the end of ten days I was obliged to stop and go to bed.

Before going farther, I ought to explain that precisely nine years before, while living in Iowa, I had been almost fatally injured by a blow upon the head, upon the left superior portion of the frontal bone, near the coronal suture; which fractured the skull and seriously concussed as well as compressed the brain. For twelve hours afterward, (and for three hours after the elevation of the fragment of depressed bone,) I manifested no sign of returning consciousness; and the attending surgeon pronounced me dead, and declined to dress the fracture, or attempt resuscitation. Mrs. Burnham was the only person present, who believed otherwise. She had been my assistant in important surgical operations, and was herself an excellent practitioner, remarkable for intelligence, coolness and judgment. She confidently declared my case to be suspended animation, the result of compression of the brain; and accordingly, herself, unaided, elevated the fragment of bone, thus saving my life, a favor which she has several times repeated.

The *contre-coup* resulted in a spinal concussion which rendered me helpless for many months; and for sixteen weeks together required potent remedies to mitigate the terrible pains along the entire spinal tract. It also produced a well-marked traumatic paraplegia, which was worse on the right side, and continued for about sixteen months. We now return to the case in point.

About the first of November, the left knee swelled suddenly to

large size, and was very painful, but without extraordinary heat or redness. The thigh at the same time shrunk away to about the size of the femur. The knee attained the perimeter of 28½ inches, and remained so about two years; eighteen months of the time utterly powerless.

About the first of December, I experienced the sensation of weariness. I ached incessantly with the sense of fatigue, the unspeakable anguish of being helplessly and hopelessly tired. In about ten days, this suddenly culminated in paralysis. I could only rotate my head and use my right forearm and hand. The function of voluntary motion alone was impaired; the sense of feeling and the power of deglutition remained. Thus chained fast, I wrote daily for hours at a time.

Dyspnœa supervened a few weeks later, threatening me at times with suffocation. A literal hydrophobia also attended. I could myself drink very well, but could not endure to see another make the endeavor. I became unable to maintain the recumbent position from hydropic effusion in the chest. For eight long, dreadful months, I dared not attempt to repose upon a bed, or to leave that terrible chair; but like St. Lawrence *in craticulâ torrere*, I sat and dreamed of torments which my waking hours fulfilled to the completest extent of horror.

From five to twenty times a day those fearful paroxysms of impending suffocation returned upon me, driving me to distraction. Day after day, and hour after hour did my agony increase, and for it I found but one palliation. We ransacked the mineral and vegetable kingdoms for a remedy to heal, or to mitigate the suffering; or at least to drown sensibility. I ate the lotos, but not that which Ulysses discoursed about. It was the lotos, the nepenthé of alcohol. Stifling my convictions and prejudices against it, I used three pints daily, for more than six weeks.

Think ye, the lotos had a power diviner,
Which wise Ulysses and his wanderers saw,
A real presence, like the old Shekinah,
Of God, revealed in Nature's kindly law?
I hold it true that God in love, doth give
To man diseased the wish and means to live.

Finally, came the impression over me that the amount taken was too small; and sickening as were the taste and smell, I clamored for more.

At this time my condition was unutterably wretched. I was a general paralytic, and this was the second invasion. It was of severe traumatic origin and occult etiology. I had a local atrophy associated with hypertrophy, and their conditional *rationale* was unknown. I had apparently incurable cardiac dropsy of obscure conditions, and attended with the characteristic phenomena of suffocation, the horror and agony of which only alcohol alleviated. There was also supposed to be enteric ulceration, which could not be relieved. I had unequivocal symptoms of Bright's disease of the kidney, with an albuminaria usually fatal under similar conditions.

The immense potions of alcohol relieved the sense of suffocation, but aggravated the ulceration and albuminaria. I drank it with a terrible sensation of dread, yet convinced that the quantity was too small, and feeling certain that if the amount would be doubled for but a single day I would recover.

Mrs. Burnham listened to my strange logic; half believing, she hesitated to test it; finally went to the druggist to procure the amount. A remark dropped by him, led her to give up her purpose.

Grown desperate, sent for Dr. McDonnell, my former student. He was willing to oblige me. Between two in the morning, and sunrise, (in September) he administered to me, in very strong punch, four and a half pints of alcohol. I was for the first time "fuddled," but it was my last with alcohol. No more was needed. My symptoms were better from that hour; I never had an attack of suffocation afterward. The very next night I slept in my bed, the first time for eight months, and rested well. For several days the urinary secretion was extraordinary in quantity, and so continued till the dropsy had disappeared. I took my first drive ten days after that last night. I have stated it too briefly to be clearly understood, to conform to the necessary requirement of brevity in writing for the press.

New York, September 28th, 1873.

Action of Medicines.

BY ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.

A variety of opinions have been promulgated in regard to the specific operation of medicines. Despite the waste of words, and the industrious employing of new terms to express the idea, most of what is known is the result of observation, principally empirical. We use the latter word in no supercilious sense; although few writers can say as much with truth. It is of comparatively late date that the peculiar action of medicines has been understood. This appears to be twofold; primarily by immediate influence, and secondarily by physiological action. *Veratrum viride* for example, diminishes the force of the pulsation both of the heart and arteries, and so alleviates congestion of the lungs; this relief constituting what we may regard as the secondary effect.

The same rule holds good with podophyllum and its educt, podophyllin, given till emeto-cathartic action is produced. The pain, vomiting and purging, are the secondary results. It is apparent that the specific principles of the medicines enter the circulation, and are conveyed by the blood to those parts of the system which are susceptible to their action, or the impression is made through the nerves, or else in the tissues to which the application is made.

It may be remarked that we ought then to assert at once that medicines may and should be classified as specifics. Perhaps so; else every remedy would affect every organ and tissue similarly, but this is not the case. But many of our vegetable medicines include constituents which exercise diverse influence in the system. Podophyllin is at once emetic and cathartic; and no pharmaceutist has yet been able to separate the two properties, so as to obviate this double action.

Veratrum, usually acting as a depressent, becomes emetic in larger doses; displaying both primary and secondary action. The same thing is also true of medicines acting directly by the nerves. Chloroform inhaled for the relief of nervous headache, and sulphate of morphia administered in minute doses for nervous headache, illustrates the action by nervous impression.

Irritation of the womb and other organs of the pelvis, operating by means of the nerves, produces convulsions; in like manner, medicines acting on the hair through the nerves, relieve hysteria, although the parts primarily diseased are remote from the tissue acted upon by the remedy.

Of course, the principle behind all this, always evades our enquiries. The questions, "How?" and "Why?" are unanswered. We can but educe the facts, and presume the mode of action. Any accumulation of techincal words to vail over the matter, is but a mound or tumulus over the body of ignorance. We do not say, "Other questions, ask not;" but "Investigate reverently and patiently, to the extent of ability." We have learned much; let us know more.

"Citrine Ointment."

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRATIS.

Several inquiries have been made of us in relation to the composition and qualities of Citrine Ointment, with the added assurance that it had received the approval of distinguished Eclectic practitioners. In reply we must declare that it is not "officinal" in any Eclectic sense of that term. It is a preparation containing mercury, and its use is therefore emphatically discountenanced in the teachings of the Eclectic Medical College, and by the Constitution of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York. The platform of that Society, adopted unanimously in 1870, at the instance of such men as Dr. Lyman Stanton, Dr. Samuel Tuthill and others, distinctly defines the matter, as it has been received by us from the first.

"We accordingly reject, as medicines, those agents or substances which are known to be baleful and poisonous in their character, having for their use no necessity or adequate justification, and exclude from our catalogue of remedies, WHOLLY AND UNQUALIFIEDLY, blood-letting, the several compounds and preparations of mercury, arsenic, antimony and lead."

If the Eclectic testimony has been ever expressed without ambiguity or uncertainty, it has been in opposition to the use of mercury in every form. When any person or physician talks or acts differently, he condemns himself thereby: "If I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor." He should discard the designation and profession of Eclecticism, and in the language of the late Henry Clay, "go home where he belongs."

The Review.

"Low Dishonesties."

Politics in this country, if not political parties, seem to be gradually assuming a new form. The issues of 1864 and 1868 are substantially obliterated; the people are "shaking hands across the bloody chasm." New topics are fixing the attention, and other questions are raised. The commercial relations between the different parts of the country are coming into controversy. The elections in California and other States, have turned upon the issues of monopoly and transportation, and the Order of Patrons of Husbandry now ramifying the principal States, has effectually determined the continuance of the controversy, till it shall be settled by legislation and jurisprudence.

The task undertaken is formidable, and so far the remedies proposed appear to be inadequate. Superficial treatment will hardly cure a cancer. The whole system of business needs overhauling, and every transaction of questionable character should be made a misdemeanor. Our laws relating to corporations are imperfect. The vicious decisions of Chief Justice Marshall, endowing them with vested rights and omnipotence above the legislature, has been made the basis for establishing monopolies, in opposition to which the people are comparatively powerless. Railway companies dictate the action of Congress and State governments; banks fill the market with a spurious currency. Life Insurance companies are safe to let alone. Of the other corporations it is often too true that they are got up by Tigg-Montagues, and that their existence is *prima facie* evidence of contemplated fraud. The "watering of stock" is but legal swindling, whether by a railway, gaslight, or other association. Burglary and highway robbery are

almost as legitimate, much more wholesome. It is a common thing for lawyers to get their client-debtors to place property in a corporation, in order to defraud creditors.

A low standard of morals in business is the cause of all the wrongs complained of. It is not considered dishonorable to violate plighted faith. Too generally a man's word is not "as good as his bond," or his note as "money in the bank." A lie which achieves its purpose does not disgrace a man. What is called our credit system, is honey-combed by bad faith; and the man is not improperly regarded as deficient in business tact, who believes the promise of another. Yet a baser deed than a falshood, we can hardly imagine. Lying is the vice of slaves; he is royal who keeps his word. "Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all." He who would tell a lie would commit murder. Let us have no more brick dust for gold, and every evil will be remedied.

Legislation should prohibit all transactions of business with spurious capital, whether it be hypothetical or "watered" stocks. A special tax on the nominal capital of every corporation ought to be levied, and penalties imposed for incurring debt in bad faith with fictitious resources. Ill faith between individuals should be made disreputable. If the granges, which seem to be the coming political party, will include these matters in their proposed reforms, they will confer actual benefit on the entire people. There should be no holding with the hare and running with the hounds.

We presume that a better diversification of industries in every part of the country, would remove most of the grounds of complaint in the matter of transportation. No community can be long prosperous with but few home industries to supply its wants, depending on trade for a disproportionate amount.

A more important matter is a legitimate currency. Paper money not representing an equivalent value in coin, impoverishes a people, and facilitates swindling in every department of business. Forestalling of the markets, "corners," arbitrary fluctuations of prices, and commercial gambling of all kinds are made common. The rich thus swell their

wealth, but the poor are placed under the iron heel. The disaster of September, which we predicted, was an unavoidable sequence of our corrupt system of business and currency.

Instead of high ambitions we are everywhere afflicted with low dishonesties. American politics have become degrading, because of their affiliation with every agency that demoralises society. The civil war had its share in producing the mischief; and it requires a strong resolve on the part of the people, in their individual as well as collective capacity, to arrest its progress. Imperialism is always near at hand, when other forms of administration fail to promote the general welfare.

Courtesies from Homœopathic Physicians.

Ever since the Eclectic State Medical Society and Medical College were incorporated, members of our branch of the profession have been treated individually and otherwise, by their Homœopathic brethren with a kindness and courtesy, honorable alike to those who gave and those who received. Several of our number have been welcomed to speak from their platform, and been elected members of their societies. One of the editors is a trustee and holds the diploma of the New York Homœopathic Medical College. We have been desirous to reciprocate as well as acknowledge these courtesies, believing that in the long run, we are all fellow-helpers.

One of our most active sympathisers has been Doctor Hermann Boskowitz, of Brooklyn. He attended meetings of our State and local societies, and spoke kind words when they were most salutary. In the Brooklyn *Daily Union* of February 13, 1868, is a letter from his pen. "I cordially recommend this college," he writes, "as the first and principal college in the State of New York that acts and works on a broad and liberal principle, with the motto; 'Cure the patient; believe what you like; be a good physician; quick cure.' Robert S. Newton, Professor of Operative Surgery and Surgical Diseases, of the Eclectic Medical College of New York, is in every branch of medicine a professor; and is more than twenty years ahead of the medical profession in Germany. For instance, Professor Virchow, in Berlin, has published a work on Cellular Pathology, which makes a great sensation in Ger-

many. Professor Newton published a long time ago, in 1846, the ideas and the whole system of Cellular Pathology in the *Western Medical News* at Cincinnati. *Ergo quod demonstrandum est.* He is over twenty years ahead of the German physicians. His energy brought the greatest success to the College, as well as to the State Society; I can say, 'When wisdom and energy meet in the same person, we may fairly look for a career marked with sagacity and crowned with success;' and that this is characteristic of Professor Robert S. Newton."

This glowing testimony of Doctor Boskowitz, brought out the following letter from Dr. S. B. Barlow, a prominent Homœopathic physician, of the City of New York, and several years a professor in the Homœopathic Medical College. It appears in the *Brooklyn Union*, Feb. 25th, 1868.

New York, Feb. 21st, 1868.

Dr. H. BOSKOWITZ:

My Dear Sir; I perceive by your letter to the *Brooklyn Union*, that you have succeeded in finding a remedy for prejudice in the more full preparation and qualification of physicians to understand, appreciate and practice the various systems of medicine; and that the New York Eclectic School of Medicine embraces and embodies that idea. I congratulate you on your discovery. Ignorance is the parent of prejudice; hence the Old School of Medicine, slavishly bound up to one idea of excellence, was bound to be prejudiced. Physicians should be educated in all systems; they could then meet on terms of equality, they could then afford to lay aside all prejudice, and the various medical organizations can afford to treat those of all other schools as gentlemen. Shall we come to that? I guess so.

Most respectfully, doctor, your servant,

S. B. BARLOW, M. D.

Both Professors Barlow and Boskowitz have acted consistently with their sentiments; and we trust it is not too late for us to realise their good wishes and expectations. Thanks for all such men and wishes.

Extracts from the Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the National Eclectic Medical Association.

The National Eclectic Medical Association assembled in the City of Columbus, O., June 25th, 1873. The President, Dr. C. Edwin Miles, in the chair.

Gov. Noyes' Welcome.

"It is not expected or desired that your deliberations should be postponed by any remarks of mine. I am here to welcome you to our State and city, as the representative of the Eclectic school of medicine. This is a city of conventions, but welcomes a convention of medical men in preference to any other. I am pleased to hear that ten States are represented here to-day, and that more are expected; that you have four medical colleges in successful operation, and that you represent over 6000 medical practitioners. What a power for good or evil you must exert in your annual meetings! You must, of necessity, improve yourselves, and thereby benefit the community by exchanging views and comparing notes at these annual meetings. Again I welcome this body to the State of Ohio and the city of Columbus, and trust that you will be both pleased and benefited by your visit.

Committee on Credentials: H. H. Brigham, Mass.; B. J. Stow, New York; J. M. Scudder, Ohio; H. D. Garrison, Illinois; B. A. Beach, Michigan; S. H. Potter, Missouri; L. Frazee, Indiana; M. Harding, Pennsylvania.

Auditing committee, Drs. Scudder, Potter and Garrison.

Extracts from President Miles' Annual Address.

"Convened as a body of medical men, coming up to the capital of the great State of Ohio from different and widely separated States of our Union, representatives of the medical thought and status of the Eclectic system of medicine in your respective sections, as well as the manners and the culture of the peoples to whom you belong, allow me to congratulate you on this auspicious day in the history of Eclectic medicine as advocated in this latter half of the nineteenth century, and to express to you the sincere wish that this convocation may be signalized for its social and fraternal spirit, strength of thought, diligent labor, dignity of bearing and harmony of action.

Different Eclectics may differ on many points; but this, by no means, sanctions the notion which seems to be entertained by some that Eclecticism in medicine, even as the term is applied by this Association, conveys the idea of a medical

practice based on no fixed and well-defined principles; as though freedom of thought and liberality in the investigation and practice of your profession presupposed the ignoring of all the established methods of seeking after and applications of scientific truths.

This supposition, however, is an error patent to all thinking and honest readers and observers of Eclectic medicine; and I believe that two propositions are accepted by every member of this Association as the basis of his movements in the study of disease and in the application of remedial agents, namely:

Prop. 1. Whenever and whatever disease exists, whether it be functional or organic in its nature, it always points to a condition of impaired vitality.

Prop. 2. The indications in the treatment of disease are to assist nature in arresting the impairment of vitality, to give her support while in this condition, and to aid her in restoring the normal state of the functions and tissues of the body. And the agents and methods for the accomplishment of these results should always be such as are conservative of the vital forces of the system.

However much you may differ in its tenets or methods, Eclectics find common grounds on which to stand, a central point toward which all gravitate, while in the interests of humanity you are united as one man. * * *

On motion, the by-laws were so changed that in addition to the initiation fee of $5, a fee of $2 is required from new members for the certificate of membership, and the annual dues were changed from $2 to $3.

PUBLIC ADDRESS.—On the evening of the 25th, Dr. W. M. Ingalls, delivered an address in the Council Chamber.

SECOND DAY.

Dr. H. D. Garrison read a letter from Prof. J. Hughes Bennett, of Edinburgh, a copy of which was requested for publication.

The Association elected the following named officers for the ensuing year:

President—C. Edwin Miles, of Boston, Mass.
First Vice-President—W. M. Ingalls, Hamilton, Ohio.
Second Vice President—J. R. Barland, Franklin, Penn.
Third Vice-President—R. A. Beach, Hudson, Michigan.
Treasurer—Benjamin J. Stow, Brooklyn, New York.
Recording Secretary—R. A. Gunn, New York.
Corresponding Secretary—O. H. P. Shoemaker, Avoca, Iowa.

Prof. A. J. Howe read a paper on Vesico-vaginal Fistula,

and explained the manner of employing the various instruments which have been invented by the most successful operators in this form of surgical disease.

THIRD DAY.

A. J. Howe, of Cincinnati, presented a paper on Ovariotomy. He also exhibited instruments, designed by himself, for drawing off the fluids after the operation, and reported cases in which he had used them.

President Miles reported a case in which the contents of the tumor were emptied into the cavity of the abdomen, and the woman recovered.

The President, Secretary and Treasurer were constituted the Publishing Committee, with power to publish the transactions in such form as they think best.

The Convention adjourned to meet at Boston on the 3d Tuesday in June, 1874, at 10 o'clock A. M. * * *

NEW MEMBERS.

H. Thomas,	West Newton, Ohio.
J. H. Crethers,	Columbus, Ohio.
John C. Nottingham,	Marion, Indiana.
A. M. Powers,	Rootstown, Portage County, Ohio.
H. C. McGavren,	Van Wert, Ohio.
H. O. P. Shoemaker,	Avoca, Potawatamie County, Iowa.
G. G. McGavren,	Missouri Valley, Iowa.
Isaac H. Day,	Point Isabel, Ohio.
John W. Thrailkill,	312 North Sixth Street, St. Louis, Mo.
George H. Field,	2303 North Tenth Street, St. Louis, Mo.
W. V. Rutledge,	608 Washington Street, St. Louis, Mo.
G. C. Pitzer,	2303 North Tenth Street, St. Louis, Mo.
P. D. Yonzt,	Mannington, W. Va.
J. R. Barland,	Franklin, Penn.
J. S. Watts,	Xenia, Ohio.
J. F. Locke,	Newport, Ky.
W. F. Branstrup,	Sterling, Ill.
T. Edwin Griffith,	Oak Hill, Jackson County, Ohio.
E. A. Allen,	Randolph, Mass.
George Cooper,	461 State street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Francis L. Gerald,	Hyde Park, Mass.
W. H. Wagstaff,	North Lewisburgh, Champaign Co., Ohio.
L. C. Vernon,	Circleville, Ohio.
Isaac N. Brown,	Laurel, Clermont County, Ohio.
H. L. True,	McConnelsville, Ohio.
R. Anton,	Lebanon, Ohio.
James Bedford,	Thompsonville, Wis.
H. H. Cahill,	New York City,
Thomas A. Granger,	New York City.
Edward B. Foote,	New York City.
George S. Everts,	Auburn N. Y.
Martin Hermance,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Z. H. Taylor,	La Rose, Ill.

Annual Meetings.

We are in receipt of press reports of the Iowa and Illinois State Societies, both of which were well attended, but can only spare space for a brief synopsis of them in this number. *The Iowa E. M. Society* was held at Des Moines, May 18, President A. C. Sherwood, M. D., in the chair. Very fine addresses were delivered by the President and Prof. Duncan, of Chicago.

The society adopted resolutions as follows:

Resolved, That we understand the spirit of the McKelveen resolutions, passed at the last annual session of this society, to be as follows, viz.: That the total rejection of venesection as well as mercury, arsenic, antimony, lead and copper, as remedies in the treatment of diseases, except the use of lead and copper as topical application, is now and ever has been one cardinal feature of our system of practice.

Resolved, That we unqualifiedly affirm this sentiment.

Resolved, That we will use every honorable means in our power to bring the Eclectic practice of medicine properly before the people, and that we will, where it is agreeable to our patrons, employ Eclectic physicians (graduates of any respectable Eclectic College of Medicine) for advice in consultation, in preference to physicians of other schools of medicine.

Resolved, That we are as much as ever convinced of the great demoralizing evils of intemperance, and that we will use all laudable means to discourage the use of all alcoholic liquors as a beverage, and that we will not use them in our prescriptions unless clearly indicated.

The nomination and election of officers for the ensuing year took place in regular form, with the result as follows: President, A. C. Sherwood, M. D., Marshalltown; Vice-President, J. G. Howell, M. D., Pella; Recording Secretary, O. H. P. Shoemaker, M. D., Avoca; Treasurer, J. A. McKelveen, M. D., Chariton; Corresponding Secretary, E. H. Carter, M. D., Des Moines.

The Illinois Convention met June 4th, at Springfield, President J. B. Lewis, M. D., in the chair.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President—Dr. W. W. Houser, Lincoln.

Vice-President—Drs. W. F. Bayne, of Macomb, and R. F. Bennett, of Litchfield.

Recording Secretary—Dr. W. H. Davis, Springfield.

Corresponding Secretary—Dr. A. W. Foreman, Whitehall.

Sewing Machines.

The invention of the sewing machine was welcomed as few devices to ameliorate the wearing work of men and women ever had been; and the result has been the obtaining of larger profits for the manufacture, than has been usual to any mechanical industry. The superseding of the simpler forms of labor by machinery affords an increased demand and field for the exercise of skill and intelligence. Ill-paid work debases those who perform it; and unskilled labor always declines into that category. We can witness this in every country of Europe, where working people losing a day are brought to the verge of beggary, where every hour is a struggle against starvation, and the gulf between the poor and the rich is almost impassable for the former. The thousands of women in this country dependent upon the precarious support of the needle, were in a fair way to descend to the same level, when sewing machines were invented. Then the labor was mitigated, and those who performed it, having increased skill, could earn more. Sewing machines, in prodigious numbers, have been sold for household and manufacturing purposes in all countries of the globe.

Judging by the advertisments for working women, in the daily journals, the palm seems thus far to have been accorded to the Wheeler and Wilson Machines. This machine is said by those using it, to be easiest to learn and keep in order; and house-wives prefer their "stitch."

The original inventor, Mr. Allen B. Wilson, working under discouragements that would have broken down most men, devised and brought out, with rare inventive skill, the wonderful practical advantages of the Wheeler and Wilson Machines for family use; while to Mr. Nathaniel Wheeler is due the great credit of solving the scarcely less difficult problems of making the public believe that sewing by machinery was practicable at all, and to teach how to do it. The "rotating hook" is the key of superiority, and gives the machine its peculiar efficiency and great popularity to say nothing of the important fact, which we have specially observed, that its music is as

pleasant and soothing to weak nerves and sensitive ears as the hum of bees or the *richer* melody of a low, sweet-voiced woman.

But the manufacturers are not content with service to households, but have employed their inventors to devise a No. 6 machine, especially adapted to all kinds of cloth and leather and heavy work. It is the achievement of James A. House; and will stitch all kinds of work with equal facility, from an old-fashioned cowhide boot to the finest ladies' shoes. This machine carried the Vienna medals and the unanimous recommendation of the International Jury for the award of the grand Diploma of Honor. It makes a strong, even stitch, alike on both sides; while by a change of needle, silk or thread a fine, beautiful pearl stitch can be made on the leather, suitable for decorating the vamps of ladies' and children's shoes. In simplicity and perfection of structure, it will be seen by mechanics, that the No. 6 is the masterpiece.

The special merit claimed for the Wheeler and Wilson machine, is that it was the first one invented that was especially adapted for family sewing; that it can be used on the finest muslins as well as on the thickest cloth; that its speed is greater than that of any other two-thread machine, and it consumes the smallest possible amount of thread with which the work can be done. Millions of these Wheeler and Wilson Sewing Machincs, have been sold to the most intelligent families in all civilised countries, and this vast and enlightened jury now made their grand award—*not found wanting.*

There is a grand display of the new No. 6 machines in practical operation, operated both by pedal and steam power, nicely adapted by means of noiseless friction wheels adjustable to motion with the slightest touch of the foot, at the great exposition of the American Institute now in progress where may be seen, busy groups of men and women turning out various kinds of cloth garments, boots, shoes, gloves, harness, and an endless variety of the most dainty artistic stitching for all the multiform purposes for which stitches are ever taken. All machines hitherto made have had some slight defects in their methods of finishing their stitch and in the perfection and

uniformity of tension so that the very best of them would occasionally skip a stitch which could readily be detected under the magnifying glass and generally by the naked eye. To obviate this and render such a lapse absolutely impossible has been the aim of hundreds of inventors. The Wheeler & Wilson new No. 6 is the only machine yet devised of which it can be truly said that it will infallibly perform its work with certainty, uniformity, strength, delicacy, and a perfection which leaves nothing more to be desired, or to be achieved in these respects.

Necrology.

Within a brief period, we have been summoned to mourn the death of several esteemed fellow-laborers. Indeed, the mortality among persons of note is so general as to indicate that we are at the close of a generation. Statesmen, scientists, men of letters, have in uncounted numbers passed away. Our ranks are also thinned by the devastator. We note the following:

Dr. PATRICK H. HALE, was a native of Virginia, and was educated at the University at Charlottesville. He afterward studied medicine, and graduated at the Eclectic Medical Institute, in Cincinnati, in 1853. At this time our "parent school," was in one of its most prosperous periods; having that winter and spring matriculated 308 and graduated 70 students. After the successful pursuit of his profession in Ohio, California, Virginia and the District of Columbia, he was prostrated by rheumatism. The heart was finally attacked, and death supervened April 1, 1873.

Dr. ROLLIN J. BURTON, was born in Vermont, July 11th, 1821, and studied medicine, graduating at Pittsfield, Mass., in 1847. He was engaged in practice in the city of Albany for twenty years, acquiring a handsome competency. He died suddenly on the eighth of April last, while conversing with a patient, apparently without premonition. A brother of his was identified with the Reformed School, many years ago, and he had accumulated a large collection of Thomsonian publications, but Dr. Burton himself did not unite with the Eclectics

till 1869. He was Vice President of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York in 1870. He was a superior practitioner.

Dr. WADE E. WRIGHT, of Cambridgeport, Mass., died Feb. 16, 1873. He was a native of New Hampshire, his term of active practice was carried over sixteen years. He was a hard worker, active in religious and benevolent enterprises, and zealous in whatever he undertook. He urged the retention of the Eclectic name and doctrines, till liberal medicine should have overborne all adverse ideas and influences.

The Hartford *Times* announces the death of Dr. John W. Johnson, which occurred on Tuesday, August 26th, 1873. He had spent several weeks in the State of Vermont, and was on his way home, on Monday evening, when he was attacked by paralysis, near Springfield. He speedily became unconscious; and only recovered partially the next day, soon relapsing into a comatose condition which continued till the last moment.

Dr. Johnson was born at Haddam, August 23, 1817. He began the practice of medicine at Waterbury, removing to Hartford in 1840, where he achieved an excellent professional reputation, and was universally esteemed. He several times held office as alderman and councilman, and afterward as coroner. He was a leading spirit among the Eclectics of Connecticut; and was several years president of the Eclectic Medical Society of that state. Upon the revival of the National Eclectic Medical Association in 1870, he was elected President, holding the office till October, 1871. Visiting his brother, Dr. Gilbert Johnson, at Memphis, Tennessee, who died at that time of paralysis, he was himself attacked, and did not rally for several weeks. He was supposed to have pretty thoroughly surmounted the disease at the period of his last and fatal attack. He leaves a wife and two daughters; and one brother, Stephen Johnson, of Texas, also survives. He was a member of St. Thomas Church, also Post Eminent Commander of the Washington Commandery of Knights Templars. His memory will be always fragrant.

MEDICAL ECLECTICS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—The Annual Conference of the British Medical Reform Association was held at Sheffield, Yorkshire, July 2d and 3d. The president, Dr. William Hitchman, of Liverpool, occupied the chair. Two papers were read: "A Budget of Black Diseases," by Dr. Hitchman; and "The Medical Education of Women," by Dr. C. T. Pearce. The latter occasioned discussion; all agreeing however that women ought to be educated for the profession of medicine. Dr. William Hitchman, was elected President; Dr. Parkinson, Vice-President; Dr. Geo. Sexton, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. W. Frost, Financial Secretary; Drs. C. T. Pearce, J. H. Blunt, W. H. Blunt, and Josiah Theros, members of the Council. The Annual Address was delivered on the 3d by Dr. Hitchman. He took radical ground against the conferring of Doctors' Degrees without scientific study, compulsory vaccination, the law against contagious diseases, the theory of evolution, and the making of a class of physicians regular by statutory enactment, etc. The Conference adjourned to meet in May, 1874. Dr. Sexton is continued as editor of the *New Era.*

ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LONDON.—Under the auspices of the British Medical Reform Association the Eclectic Medical College of London has been established. It proposes to adopt the curriculum of the existing colleges together with the Botanic system, Hydro-therapeutics, and Homœopathy. A winter session begins on the 1st of October, 1873, and a summer session, May 1st, 1874. A separate department is established for ladies, the curriculum of which includes, Obstetrics, Diseases of Children, Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene and Practical Medicine. Among the instructors are Doctors Sexton, Pearce, Hitchman and Frost. Dr. Charles Pearce, the Dean, instructs in Homœopathic medicine.

SOUND IDENTICAL WITH ELECTRICITY.—If a common tuning fork or other vibrating sounding body be applied to the junction of a thermo-electric pan that is in connection with a delicate galvanometer the needle will be deflected; showing that electricity is but a form of molecular motion.

J. Hughes Bennett still in the Advance.

Some weeks since we wrote Prof. Bennett, asking permission to republish his report of the Edinburgh Committees' researches on the cholagogue action of mercury, and at the same time distinctly stated the salient features of Eclecticism, as taught in this College, and particularly our opposition to the therapeutic use of mercury, arsenic and antimony. In reply, dated Vichy, France, May 23d, '73, Prof. Bennett says:

"Dear Sir:

Your letter reached me here this morning, and I may say at once that I have not the slightest objection to the republication of my report of the Edinburgh Committees' researches on the action of mercury on the liver. I entirely agree with you as to the inutility or injurious character of mercury. As to antimony, I long supposed it served to dissolve the excess of fibrin in the blood, but find I do just as well without it. The influence of arsenic is very doubtful. I *never give it.* Indeed it may be questioned how any chemical element which forms no part of the animal body, can be of the slightest service in curing or relieving its morbid conditions.

I was especially grieved to learn of the destruction of your College in the great fire of Chicago, but do not doubt that the well-known energy so characteristic of your countrymen will soon replace it on a secure and better footing. I shall be happy, so far as I am able, to contribute to its library a copy of all my works and separate published papers. * * * *

Yours very faithfully,

J. Hughes Bennett.

The portion of the letter omitted refers to some details in the matter of publication of the report which Prof. Bennett kindly promises to correct and extend, so as to embrace a new series of experiments, which, he says, "completely dispose of the only rational objection ever made to our researches." "Strange to say that report has only been criticised and publicly noticed by one medical journal in this country. Prejudice strongly operated against accepting the committee's conclusions, but I have reason to know that silently it has had a marked effect in diminishing the amount of mercury prescribed.—*H. D. Garrison, M. D., Chicago Medical Times, July,* 1873.

BOOK TABLE.

A new edition of the "*Text-Book of Physiology, General, Special, and Practical,*" by John Hughes Bennett, has been reprinted by J. B. Lippincott & Co. It is a duodecimo of six hundred pages, convenient in size and the arrangement of topics, and valuable for containing the much in so brief space. It is totally devoid of the prolixity which makes so many books tedious. The conciseness is almost extraordinary; nothing seems to be left out, and the pump has not been used to help the cow. A sentence or a clause contains all that many writers and lecturers usually amplify into a page or a paragraph. Having been often worried and fatigued beyond patience by wordy and therefore vague discourses, we open this book with a feeling of refreshment and delight at finding what we look after detailed in few words expressed axiomatically. Dr. Bennett was himself a teacher and had the most practical ideas upon the mode of evolving and communicating ideas. The student desirous of obtaining other than superficial ideas of physiology, even though but an amateur of science, will find the treatise most valuable.

"*The Great Facts of Modern Astronomy,*" is the title of a pamphlet by Mr. William S. Henson, a practical engineer of the city of Newark. The work is an endeavor to elucidate the manner in which the earth and planets were formed, the cause of their motion and other phenomena. To cry "*Ne sutor ultra crepidam,*" because the writer was educated an engineer instead of as an astronomer would be neither honorable, generous, nor in accordance with the genius of our time. We hear before we strike. By Mr. Henson's theory, there was a time when our earth and sun, and all the stars were once in the condition of extremely fine dust and vapor scattered through space. By a process of aggregation which he demonstrates by geometrical progression, they were brought together, occupying an immense time in the operation. The particles thus coming together although in a condition of intense cold at first, became heated and began to display other phenomena incident to the present form of their existence. Rain-storms, upheavals and

other disturbances indicate the agencies at work. There would also be material thrown off in the nebulous form, which operated upon by the centrifugal force took immense elliptical orbits, going and returning at vast intervals, and condensing meanwhile, became an infinitude of comets and asteroids. These next became planets, as we now observe them; all of them children of the sun. The moons or satellites are similar bodies which were associated through the force of gravitation with the larger worlds and so accompany them in their periodical journeys. There was a tradition among the early Arcadians of a period when the moon did not accompany the earth; and Humboldt mentions a similar one among the Muyscas of Bogota.

Mr. Henson repeats a suggestion which we remember to have heard before, that all the suns and planetary worlds are destined to ultimate destruction to re-appear again in new cosmical organizations, and presumes that the same thing may have occurred repeatedly in anterior periods.

The "*Masque of the Gods*," by Bayard Taylor, needs an intelligent reader to appreciate it aright. One must know something of at least ten "world-religions." Odin from Northland, Perun a god of older time, Baal the Tyrian Hercules, Manito from Iroquois forests, Jove the Roman and Apollo the Greek, Elohim of ancient Jewry and Immanuel of Christian time, Brahma the Aryan Hindoo, Ormuzd and Ahriman the Parsee demiurge and maleficent, are caused to assert their claims: but all acknowledge the supremacy of the "Voice from Space." The production is masterly in its conception and in the handling.

The *Phrenological Journal* for August and September has been received. In many respects it excels other periodicals. It occupies a broader field, admitting science, ethics, psychology, political economy, education, social topics of various kinds, all which are treated skilfully, candidly and never in any legitimate sense of the term, offensively. A publication so broad in scope and really liberal as well as far-reaching is every day more valuable.

We are indebted to the Hon. Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior, for copies of the Report of the Surgeon-in-Chief of the Columbia Hospital for Women; and the Report of the Commissioner of Education for 1872. The latter is invaluable for its statistics of the libraries and other facts in regard to public instruction. Doctor Thompson's Report embraces a summary of the principal operations performed by him, from March, 1866, till June, 1872. Of them 34 were radical cures of lacerated perineum, performed after the method of Baker Brown, of London; vesico-vaginal fistula, by the operation which immortalises J. Marion Sims; vaginal rectocele, by Dr. Thompson's own method; vaginal cystocele, diseases and displacements of the uterus, prolapsas, tumors, subinvolutions, cancers; diseases of the vagina and cervix uteri; cervial metritis and endometritis; ulcers and local diseases induced by masturbation, some of the details of which are almost incredible; stone, urethral caruncles, pelvic cellulitis, etc. There is also a full statement of what has been done in the dispensary, likewise in the department for diseases of children, and the section of diseases of the eye and ear. The volume is an invaluable contribution to scientific literature.

PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWER was on trial for its rights, before Judges Drummond and Blodgett, justices of the U. S. District Court of Illinois, on the 30th of July last. The Star Chemical Works had imitated their boxes, labels and trade-mark, only substituting the name of Richards for Price. The decision turned on the use of the term "cream," which not being an ingredient of baking powder was a name to denote excellence, and therefore a valid trade-mark. The proprietors, Charles R. Steel and Dr. V. Clarence Price, were therefore successful in their application, and an injunction was issued prohibiting from infringing the trade-mark. This was a great triumph and deserved.

THE REGULAR LECTURES OF THE PRESENT WINTER SESSION in the Eclectic Medical College is progressing finely. Every Department is full and every Lecture is delivered on time.

The present Faculty are working hard to maintain the high position which the College holds. The number of students in attendance is about the same as at the commencement of previous sessions.

The Spring session will commence as per announcement. Every member of the Faculty except one, will hereafter be a permanent resident of the city, which will add much to the facility of holding spring sessions.

The Eclectic Medical College.

The Winter Session commenced on the first Tuesday in October, 1873, and will continue sixteen weeks. The Spring Session will commence on the first Tuesday in February (hereafter), and continue sixteen weeks.

We assure students of this college of as good opportunities for medical instruction as can be obtained at any similar institution in the United States. No medical college has so large a percentage of its graduates in successful and reputable practice. By that criterion we are willing to be tested.

The inducements to select New York for the place at which to prosecute the studies of medicine and surgery are not surpassed. Besides the regular daily lectures are also the advantages afforded by access to the general hospitals, of witnessing surgical operations, and observing different methods of treatment. All medical students are permitted, on procurement of the requisite tickets, to be present at the Bellevue cliniques, at regular periods each week.

The principles of medicine taught at this college, are those of the Reformed and Eclectic School. We are distinct, rather than exclusive, believing that we are right, and confident that we shall show good reason for that belief. No colleges, not of our faith, teach our Materia Medica or practice, or are willing that their students shall learn or adopt it. Hence we exist, and existing, inculcate the better, safer, more successful methods of treating the sick. We are Eclectic, in that we regard every doctrine and form of practice, and apply the apostolic rule; "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

The name Eclectic, which we do not shrink from, has been adopted for the reasons here indicated. It is appropriate because American Medical Reform is based on eclecticism, in every department. Our researches have not resulted, as adversaries love to assert, in a mere accumulation of material,

but in the discovering of a large number of new and superior remedies, and we rejoice to add in the discarding of dangerous and noxious agents, for which more efficient and safer substitutes have been obtained; and thus a great and comprehensive system of medical practice has been organized, upon the basis of a wide, enlightened experience. Ours is the credit due for the discovery, proving and adoption of many new and important remedies from indigenous medicinal plants, and of the application of successful scientific methods of extracting their active principles, so as to render the agents equally efficient and more acceptable.

A distinctive and fundamental principle of the Eclectic School of Medicine is that no medicinal agent or course of treatment should be adopted, which impairs the vital power. The remedies which are safest and act most closely in accordance with physiological law should be preferred, sought and employed. This is the head and front of whatever "irregularity" has been imputed to us. We boldly assert that the fancied necessity for the employment of noxious medical agencies is a delusion. The terrible consequences following their use, which have been observed and acknowledged by distinguished medical teachers and practitioners, is a sufficient refutation of the plea that they are required. All necessary purposes can be effected, in our present stage of knowledge, imperfect as it may be, by remedies more harmless as well as efficacious; consequently, we do not sanction the employment of mercurials, lead, arsenic, antimony, or the lancet. *Esse quam videri.*

Students should be particular to provide themselves with the best text-books upon the principal sciences; avoiding all the quasi-scientific publications which were "made to sell." It is the province of instructors to aid them in reading and mastering their books, rather than in giving quotations of what ought to be in them. Eclectic and Reformed authors upon Materia Medica, Surgery, Obstetrics, the Theory and Practice of Medicine, should, of course, have the preference.

We represent a distinct school of medicine, and mean to present faithfully its distinctive views, aware that, "new wine is put into new bottles, and thus both are preserved." The cardinal

principle of liberality is consistency. But while thus strenuous in declaring our views, and purposes, we shall not "pluck" or in any other way deal dishonestly by any student that may not accept the sentiments and practice which we uphold.

Requisites for Graduation.

CANDIDATES for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must present satisfactory evidence that they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are of good moral character; they must have studied medicine three years with some respectable practitioner, and have attended two full Courses of Lectures in some legally incorporated College—or they must have attended three Courses of Lectures and studied two years, the last of which shall have been attended in this College—or they must have been engaged in a constant and reputable practice of medicine for four years, and have attended one full Course of Lectures in this College.

FEES.

Fees for a Full Course of Lectures	$100
Matriculation Fee	5
Demonstrator's Fee	5
Graduation Fee	30
Hospital Tickets	3
For certificate of Scholarship, for which the holder may attend two or more Courses of Lectures, or until graduation, to be paid in advance	150

Any further information may be obtained by addressing any member of the Faculty, or ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D. President of the Faculty, 137 West 47th St., New York City.

THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D., ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

EDITORS.

VOL. I. MAY 15, 1874. No. 3.

"Like to the bee,
That skillful worker, which from many a flower
Gathers its treasures, that she may convey
A luscious offering to the master's hand."
ST. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA.

The Future of Eclectic Medicine.

A cause is greater than men; a man is greater than institutions. We all have, therefore, full right to interrogate every thing. Nothing should be reverenced because it is old, or eagerly sought because it is new. The highest duty is that man should be honored in us; that which degrades, corrupts, or enslaves, no matter what may be the sanctities which invest it, should be discarded, wilfully and without remorse.

Reformed Medicine is an assertion of individual right, as against the assumptions of medical sacerdotism, a declaration of independence from a practice and a code of ethics born of mediæval barbarity and baptized with the spirit and fire of religious bigotry and political despotism. Its work, therefore, is to remake the entire structure; the former things must pass away.

Most pitiful is the logic which declaims against medical Eclectics, as less numerous, less wealthy, less esteemed, than the physicians of other schools. From just such, from the poor, the little valued, history is made. The poor wise man delivered the city. The conflicts which advance the world

onward, are by, through, and in behalf of the poor and despised among men; and they always succeed.

We may be traduced; for envy and calumny are the tribute which the selfish pay to every thing above their own moral or intellectual stand-point. Men, whose ruling impulses are low and bestial, are hardly able to conceive that anybody possesses motives higher or purer than their own. If there are any such professing to belong to our own school of practice, they will vilify us and be ever on the alert to do us injury. But bickering, dissension, and faction are not essentials of Eclecticism.

From those whose ambition is to be "regular," whether as the source of gain or popular applause, we hardly expect even civility. Our humble condition repels them; and we are looked upon by them as the free wolf of the forest was regarded by his relative the fattened dog, whose liberty was curtailed by chain and collar. A medical practice with an inflexible creed and code of ethics, makes of a man either a supercilious despot or a cringing slave. He is a latter-day pagan, speaking in a dead language to dead men. Like an Egyptian mummy, he is eviscerated, and wrapped from head to foot in the infrangible meshes of his code. He can hope to live only like an Old-World Church, by being legislated into a State or National orthodoxy; in a free atmosphere he would asphyxiate. All such must oppose us, even to persecution and ribaldry.

But Medical Eclecticism has the future. Its rivals and adversaries exist vampirically. Eclecticism lives from inherent vitality. The press, the college, and the practitioner, are its heralds and promulgators. Hence, wherever the English language is spoken, it is steadily gaining the public confidence. It is the Protestantism of medicine. Like the rider on the white horse in the Apocalypse it goes forth conquering and to conquer.

Acknowledging the correctness of its principles, believing it to be safest and surest as a mode of practice, and identified with it almost involuntarily as its exponents, we have refused heed to the solicitations, admonitions, and threats which have been uttered to swerve us from our position. We know that we are right, and we shall maintain our ground.

Diphtheria.

BY PROFESSOR HERMAN BOSKOWITZ, M. D.

Diphtheria is named from the Greek word *diphthera*, signifying skin or membrane, and has in classical mythology an interesting history. Zeus or Jupiter, the supreme god of the ancient Pantheon and Dictator on Mount Olympus, had a favorite she-goat on Mount Ida in Crete, named Amalthea. After her death he caused her skin to be made into parchment, which he used for the record of the good and meritorious, as well as the evil and censurable acts of mankind. Hence the proverb of Ovid, *Sero Jupiter diphtheram inspexit*, meaning that however late, Jupiter will surely scrutinise the acts of men, and judge them accordingly.

Diphtheria, in nearly all cases, is attended by a high grade of fever, preceded by chills. All patients complain of their bones aching, and of a dragging, pulling sensation about the knee-joints; there are also pain in the head, nausea and vomiting. There are commonly also swelling of the parotid, submaxillary and other glands, of the mouth, liver, and neck; also generally elongation of the mouth, inflammation of the tonsils, and a heavy deposit upon them as well as in the back part of the throat, which is almost closed. The coating is sometimes white at the margin, yellowish in the thicker portions, and turning black at some points; in other cases the color of the membrane has been pure or pearly white; and again, it has assumed the brown or leathery hue, covering more or less of the tonsils, and extending down nearly or quite into the trachea.

In no instances have the afflicted parts presented an aspect to which the terms leather, leathery or leather-like could justly be applied. To whom can we award the questionable honor of having named the malady *diphtheria*? To none other than Dr. Bretanneau, of Paris. In 1824 all France was scourged by it, and in 1827 it prevailed, with great mortality, in Germany and Austria.

In 1826 Dr. Bretanneau presented a paper to the French Academy, entitled *Des Inflammations Specifiques du Tissu*

mugeux, etc. The sentiment of the Academy was truly expressed; "A new name does not create a new disease." The malady referred to which he had termed diphtheria was declared to be none other than *Angina maligna gangrenosa* in epidemic form. The present designation is, therefore, a misnomer.

Treatment. Diphtheria is treated by some homœopathists, when fully developed, by the alternate use of Kali bichromicum and Mercurius iodatus; and when prostration takes place, with Arsenicum and Ammonia carbonica. In milder forms of the disease, Aconite, Belladonna, Capsicum, Iodine, Lachesis and Nitric acid have been used successfully.

Others recommend a solution of chlorate of potassa, a gargle once in three hours, and the external application of a saturated solution of salt and water.

I recommend as a specific remedy, obviating the necessity of gargling and external applications, the Tincture of Phytolacca decandria, administered as follows: In a half-tumblerfull of water drop four drops of the tincture, and let the patient swallow a teaspoonfull of the dilution once every two hours.

To the Eclectic physicians belongs the honor of the discovery of this specific, which has conferred so invaluable an honor upon medicine and the public.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Milk of Magnesia.

Among the many new and important pharmaceutical preparations made during the last few years and adopted by the medical profession, none has proved to be of greater importance than that of milk of magnesia, which is prepared in a different manner from any other magnesia of a liquid form, it is complete in its solvent nature, does not become impacted in the stomach or bowels and does not act as an irritant, this is one of the most important improvements in its manufacture. We have prescribed it for several months with decided success.

Cactus.

BY RICHARD E. KUNZE, M. D.

(Continued from page 48.)

Cereus Bonplandii or White Grandiflora: Synonym, *Cereus rectigalis grandiflorus*, is another variety of night-blooming Cerei, nearly allied to the last-named species, from which it differs more in the shape of its joints than in size and color of its flowers. In growth it is not so rank as the other, with stems 4 or 5 angled, slightly ribbed and not so thickly beset with spines as the other varieties. Thickness of joints from one-half to one and a half inches in diameter and in color of a deeper green. The flower proper is seven to eight inches long, including the flower-tube, nearly a foot and it measures fully nine inches in width. The sepals of the tube are of a cinnamon color; the outside row of petals is of a lemon-yellow and the inner row a pure white. In fragrance it is not excelled by any other variety and it flowers at night very much the same as the preceding variety. The fruit is small. It is a native of the West India Islands. Of this it may be said that like other night-blooming Cerei, it can be changed in its habit of flowering at night and made to produce flowers of equal beauty and fragrance in broad daylight. I will now state what Mr. Schott, Director of the Botanic Garden of Vienna, accomplished with one of these plants to suit the whim of an Emperor, who could not have thought of such an idea as to have made a visit to the conservatory by night, for the mere purpose of beholding a Cereus grandiflorus in flower. For three months in succession, Mr. Schott caused this Cereus to be shaded and finally excluded from all light during the day, at the same time subjecting it to the action of an electric light at night in such a way, that by this gradual change of light into darkness, the habit of the plant was reversed so that it flowered between the hours of 9 to 10 o'clock in the morning during the month of July in the year 1850, giving the Emperor Francis Joseph an opportunity to view it at his leisure. As a medicine, this species has proved itself to be a valuable

acquisition to our Materia Medica, especially in all functional disorders of the heart, and my experience with this Cereus, I will embody in a future article on the action of Cactus.

Cereus flagelliformis or rat-tail Cactus produces a greater number of equally handsome flowers than the foregoing sorts, and very fragrant too. The flowers appear in May and sometimes earlier when the season is warm. The petals are of a fine deep pink color, both within and without: they are not very numerous and the tube or calyx of the flower is longer than that of Cereus grandiflorus. These flowers keep open 3 or 4 days, provided the weather or place where the plants stand be not too warm, and during their continuance they make a fine appearance. This variety has very slender trailing branches, which require a support. They are not jointed nor do they extend so far as the other sorts. The fruit of this Cactus is yellowish, yet it seldom ripens under cultivation. It is indigenous in Peru. Its rounded shoots, hanging down the sides of the pot like ropes or cat's tails, give it the appearance of a very ornamental plant. The branches or shoots are thickly covered with fine fuzzy spines. When grafted on a Pereskia or Cereus serpentinus, it makes an attractive plant.

Cereus triangularis or Strawberry-pear has very large flowers also; the calyx is of a yellowish green, with the points of its sepals tinged red. The petals of the outer circle are a fine yellow, and the inner circle is made up of large white petals. The anthers are yellow and filaments white. It bears a large oval purplish-red fruit, containing a white or light roseate pulp, which has a deliciously slight acid flavor, and is much esteemed by the inhabitants of Martinique and other West India islands. It is the best-flavored fruit of any of the Cacti, and resembles in taste very much the strawberry, being acid, at the same time sweet, pleasant and cooling. The triangular stems of this Cactus attain a good size and measure from 2 to 6 inches in diameter, according to the variety. At times some of its stems are quadrangular. Many of the Crabs-claw Cacti are grafted upon the strong stems of this species, so as to produce a greater abundance of flowers, from the increase of nutrition obtained.

Cereus Peruvianus, Synonym, (*C. Octangularis*), is another very showy variety. The stems are octangular and very thick. The flower stem or calyx is green with the points of its sepals pinkish. The petals or the flower proper, is white and with the yellow anthers on their white filaments in the centre of it, make up a large and handsome flower. The fruit is red. The woody axis of the stems or joints is used as a torch by the Indians, hence the name "Torch-thistle," has been given to all of the genus Cereus. The wood is also used for making fences, beams, posts and door-sills of some Indian houses. It is a native of Peru and St. Domingo, where it attains a remarkable size.

Cereus gigantsus, the Giant or Monumental Cactus is the largest species of any of this genus, its columnar trunks in the valley of the Gila river, in Arizona, often reaching to the height of 20 to 50 feet. The Mexicans call it "Suwarrow." It grows on the barren hills and plains of Arizona, oftentimes four and a half feet in diameter, and is deeply ribbed and covered with long, black spines. The ribs near the base about 12, but further up at the bifurcation of the branches its greatest diameter being there and which is generally 15 to 18 feet from the ground, the ribs are increased to 30 in number The wood at the stem of old trunks becomes a hollow cylinder and from thence to the first branches instead of being solid, it becomes a reticulated net-work of bundles of wood. It flowers from May to July and the fruit ripens in July and August. The flowers are produced in abundance near the summit of the stems, and the fruit is found always near the center of the top. The flowers are from 3 to 5 inches in length, and 3 to 4 inches in diameter. They are supposed to be open day and night. The color of the petals is of a creamy white, that of the sepals a fleshy-greenish white and the filaments light yellow. The petals are very thick, fleshy and much curled. Its fruit is pear-shaped, of a greenish yellow color, toward the end reddish, with a few small spines scattered over the surface which fall off as the fruit becomes thoroughly ripe. The fruit being borne upon the highest part of the plant, it is usually gathered by means of long hooked sticks or forks tied to the ends of

long poles made from the wood of the same. The inside of the fruit is of a beautiful red color and looks tempting; the rind is pulpy, fibrous, juicy and sweet; the pulp is very palatable and is full of small black seeds, which are also eaten, reminding one of figs, the only difference being that it has more moisture. The seeds are indigestible unless well chewed. The Indians of Arizona, Sonora and the southern portion of California consider this one of their greatest luxuries, and as long as the fruit is obtainable, care for nothing else. To dry this fruit as a preserve, the seedy pulp is placed between soft, inner corn-husks, the ends of which are tied, and it is then dried in the sun, for winter use or trade. It is also put up into earthen pots when fresh, secured from the air, and sold in the settlements. It retains its sweetness for a long time, a sample of it having been deposited in the museum of the Agricultural Department of Washington and was good yet after the lapse of 3 years. Yet there are instances, when it will undergo a slight fermentation, and its color will change to a Vandyke red. A clear light brown syrup is expressed from the pulp also, and sold in one gallon jugs by the Indians for 2 to 5 dollars. The Papajo Indians are the largest producers of this syrup. The Pimo Indians of the Gila River, annually prepare a wine from this fruit, called by the Mexicans "*Tiswein*," by taking the fresh pulp or the syrup and mixing with it a certain quantity of water in earthen vessels and exposing it to the sun for some time to ferment, after which it is fit for drinking. It is highly intoxicating, with the taste and smell of sour beer; but some time elapses after drinking, before its stimulating effects are felt. When the wine is ready for use, the Indians celebrate an annual drinking festival. These gatherings are anxiously anticipated for months and expeditions which have been planned against the Apaches while under the influence of drink, are then carried into execution. A sample of this wine, 3 years old, at the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, has improved by age, having acquired a slight sour, muscat taste, but is still very disagreeable. The juice or flesh of this Cereus is quite bitter and must contain certain medicinal properties. The wood of these large Cacti is used as fuel, and

when made into poles serves as building material for Indian huts, as well as for the purpose of detaching the fruit from the distant stems. Arrows too are made of it, and it is not an uncommon thing to meet numbers of these Cacti pierced with arrows, their fruit having served as target for the Indian boys, who in missing their aim had also forfeited their arrows. Plants raised from seeds are globose and retain such shape for many years, being exceedingly slow in their growth, as well as delicate. These differ from all other seedling plants of Cerei, with the exception of Cereus Thurberi, in that the others at once grow up in a cylindric or prismatic column.

Phytolacca in the Treatment of Inflammation of the Mammæ.

G. W. Biggers, M. D. of La Grande, Oregon, says, in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences:* The following cases are the *result of my experience* with the remedy.

Case 1. Mrs. H., on third day after labor with her second child; mammæ commenced swelling, after an accumulation of milk. Did not see her until the symptoms were so urgent that there could be no mistake about the commencement of an abscess.

I pursued the antiphlogistic treatment, both general and local, until there was no promise of improvement; on the contrary, the case was continually getting worse. I then prescribed fluid ext. phytolacca decandra, gtts. xx. every three hours, in water. A very marked improvement took place in twelve hours, and in thirty-six hours the patient was well. There was also a suppression of the lochiæ, which was also re-established.

Case II. Mrs. B., whose child died a few hours after its birth, was attacked, after the secretion of milk took place, with inflammation of the mammary glands, from over-distension, and had the milk withdrawn very regularly, yet the case continued worse, threatening an abscess. I prescribed fluid ext. phytolacca decandra, gtts. xx. every three hours. Marked improve-

ment in ten hours, and a complete recovery within thirty-six hours. There was also a suppression of the lochia in this case, which was re-established with the cessation of the mammary inflammation.

Case III. Mrs. G., at the fourth month of pregnancy, was attacked with inflammation of both mammæ, severe pain, swelling, and very great heat, with severe rigors, amounting to a distinct chill. I prescribed fluid ext. phytolacca decandra, gtts. xv. every three hours, in water. The symptoms all subsided, and the patient fully recovered within forty-eight hours, with no other treatment.

I have used the remedy above named in many other cases of mammary inflammation, and it has never yet failed in a single case.

Private Classes.

The Professors of the Eclectic Medical College are instructed by resolution of the Board of Trustees, to hold no private classes. In this particular, this institution is an honorable exception to a bad and too general practice. The hours devoted to instruction are ample for the purpose and occupy all the time which students can devote to the purpose, consistent with due regard to health and scholarly acquirements. Time is required for mental assimilation of ideas, as for the digestion of food; and cramming is more obnoxious than overfeeding. Besides the holding of private classes by the instructors, as is done in several medical colleges in this city, is open to the imputation of bad faith toward the students. The purchase of tickets is a contract entitling to the specific instruction given. The teacher, who keeps open a private class for such students, virtually intimates to them that they must pay the additional charge thus made; and they understand that the refusal endangers their chances for graduation. If this impression is correct, as it doubtless is in some instances, the practice in question is hardly more honorable that the levying of black mail. Medical students should be sacred from such extortions.

The Review.

Notes on the Times.

The people of the United States are still in the severe throes of the financial crisis. There is no immediate prospect of a permanent or wholesome revival of business; and as a consequence, that part of the population, usually not classified with the poor or the wealthy, suffer most severely. On them fall a disproportionate weight of all public burdens, whether by direct or indirect taxation, or from stagnation of industry; the general concentration of wealth that has taken place, to a large extent the sequence of the war, has deprived them in a great degree of the opportunities for carrying on business or industry for a support. It is unfortunate for any country that has its middle classes suffering. An agitation of social and other questions is inevitable.

A bill to fix the "legal tender" currency of the country at $400,000,000 instead of providing for its redemption, has been returned to the Senate by the President, unapproved. This has created a bitter feeling between leading men of the Atlantic and other States indicative of future political ruptures, and general uneasiness in financial circles. The foreshadowed policy of Congress is to abolish the present banking monopoly and authorise long bonds for the absorption of the outstanding Goverment circulation. Yet bank notes as a currency are of doubtful constitutionality; while a treasury note, based on the national faith, and accepted by the Government itself at its Custom Houses, would be more generally acceptable. The "greenback" is more popular than the bank bill, liable as the later is to degenerate to a "wild cat."

Now, in the midst of abundance, cheap food, and cheap clothing, there is a paralysis in business; people are getting poorer and suffering actual want, who have been supposed to be in easy circumstances. Our financial statesmanship is to

blame; in fact little is being attempted except to prepare for the coming political campaign. Yet the season completed as it has begun, will witness a commotion in all ranks of society, which will shake every foundation built on the deceptive quicksand. The public mules need not hope for posterity. It is useless to plead for the restoration of confidence among men of business or anywhere, till there shall be a resurrection of probity, and good faith between men.

If better councils do not prevail, if the men of small means are not sufficiently relieved from the incubus that now paralyses them, and if industry is not revived, it will be time for the people to demand sternly who is to blame, and in their sovereign capacity, apply the remedy.

The Elastic Truss and Supporter.

For the relief of Hernia, a complaint far more prevalent than many have supposed, the Elastic Truss and Supporter, has deservedly achieved a high rank in conservative surgery. We make no invidious discrimination from personal partiality, but rely on the tests of science and experience. It is an apparatus comfortable to wear, effectual and curative in operation. Compared to it, very many of the inventions in use are mere instruments of torture, the abominations of surgery.

This matter ought to receive careful consideration from its incalculable importance. More than half of our population either have hernia already or are predisposed to it by conditions likely to become manifest at a more advanced period of life. Of the male portion, about one-third have some form of rupture already, chiefly the inguinal form. Of the remainder, about one in thirty has umbilical, and one in fifty, femoral hernia; the residue being ventral hernia in some forms. Inguinal hernia is indirect, not issuing from the internal ring; direct, involving the conjoined tendon; or middle, issuing from some point in Hesselbach's Triangle between the conjoined tendon and the internal ring, in the area of the transversalis

fascia. These forms of hernia may become scrotal or labial. The indirect or oblique hernia is easily retained by a good truss, but a direct hernia can be held only by an elastic truss with a direct pad, such as here provided.

Almost every form of hernia is curable by this Elastic truss, which can be worn, as it should be in every instance, when a radical cure is desired, day and night. This appliance is so constructed that no possible position of the body can remove the desired amount of pressure when once applied; this is a quality not possessed by any metal truss, nor is any person able to wear a metal truss, day and night, and yet if this is not done, a cure is impossible.

It is estimated that the average increase of hernia has been at the rate of two hundred per cent., in the last two centuries.

In favorable conditions, there is a natural tendency to the obliteration by healing of all disused serous sacs or pouches, especially when protruded from their proper cavities. The ductus venosus, the ductus arteriosus, the hypogastric artery, the allantoic vesicle, the pedicle of the umbilical vesicle, the omphalo-mesenteric vessels, the urachus, and the superior portion of the tunica vaginalis testis, as soon as they have accomplished their temporary and provisional purpose, immediately begin the obliteration of their tubular capacity and become impervious cords, or are completely absorbed. Thus the fœtal testis passing through the internal abdominal ring and descending by the inguinal canal into the scrotum, leaves behind it a tube of peritoneum, which will, if neither intestine nor omentum intrude into it, be obliterated in ten or twelve days. So, likewise, every hernial sac, if the contents are kept out of it, will be obliterated in from thirty to ninety days, and in extreme youth, this healing process will be accomplished in a shorter period. Hence, it is indispensable, in order to effect the cure of hernia, by the truss alone, that it shall be kept reduced both by day and night for weeks together. No truss, therefore, which cannot be constantly worn, can accomplish this purpose. This is the reason why the truss fails, which cannot be so worn. Elasticity is the only agency which can operate in harmony with the contractility of the muscles.

The Elastic Truss, made by The Elastic Truss Co., No. 683 Broadway, G. V. House, M. D., Superintendent, accomplishes these purposes, effecting actual cure. Cases of more than forty years' standing, have been treated successfully, and those of persons not unknown and obscure, but individuals of assured respectability.

SOME OF THE CASES TREATED.

H—— W——, who is probably over 60 years of age. Old Hernia.

Mr. H. G——, a gentleman residing in New Rochelle, whose age is 76 years. Cured of Double Hernia. Had Hernia 40 years.

Gen. Th. S——, of this city, age 78. Cured last May, and dispenses with a Truss altogether. Had Hernia 12 years.

Mr. H. L——, near this city, was cured in three months. Age, about 60. Had Hernia 10 years.

Mrs. A——, was cured last year in six weeks. Age, over 60 years. Had had Hernia over 20 years.

Col. D——, has been cured since Nov. last. Old and very bad Hernia.

Prof. Burnham, Surgeon to the Elastic Truss Co., and a successful operator for the cure of Hernia, reports that cases of cure thus effected are frequently presented there.

We commend a visit to the extensive and elegant Elastic Truss Rooms, to examine not only the truss in question, but the hundreds of letters, from their numerous patrons, giving direct and conclusive evidence of cure wrought by the Elastic Truss.

Meeting of State Eclectic Medical Societies in 1874.

OHIO, at Columbus, May the 13th.

MAINE, at Portland, Wednesday, June the 24th.

NEW HAMPSHIRE, at Concord, Wednesday, June the 17th.

CONNECTICUT, Elliott House, 153 Chapel St., New Haven, Conn., Tuesday the 12th and 13th of May, 1874.

National Eclectic Medical Association.

The fifth annual meeting of this Association, will be held at Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield street, Boston, Mass., on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 16th, 17th, and 18th of June, 1874.

COMMITTEES.

Public Address—ROBERT A. GUNN, M. D., New York.

Topics for General Discussion—The Microscope: Its uses in the study of Diagnosis and Pathology. P. W. Allen, M. D., New York.

The Duty of Medical men in relation to the Study and Enforcement of Sanitary Laws. H. G. Newton, M. D., Massachusetts.

The West as a Resort for Patients with Pulmonary Diseases. O. H. P. Shoemaker, M. D., Iowa.

Theory and Practice of Medicine—J. A. McElveen, M. D., Iowa. S. H. Potter, M. D., Missouri. G. K. Bagley, M. D., Vermont.

Surgery and Surgical Diseases—A. J. Howe, M. D., Ohio. Alex. Thompson, M. D., Pennsylvania. H. N. Young, M. D., Illinois.

Obstetrics—John King, M. D., Ohio. V. A. Baker, M. D., Michigan. James W. Huntoon, M. D., Missouri.

Gynæcology—A. L. Clark, M. D., Illinois. J. H. Robinson, M. D., Connecticut. C. E. Witham, M. D., Iowa.

Materia Medica—R. W. Geddes, M. D., Massachusetts. H. K. Whiteford, M. D., Illinois. H. S. Firth, M. D., New York.

Medical Botany and Pharmacy—W. V. Rutledge, M. D., Missouri. C. E. Dowelle, M. D., Massachusetts. H. S. Mc Master, M. D., Michigan.

Physiology—E. S. McClellan, M. D., New York. J. G. Van De Walker, M. D., Indiana. J. R. Borland, M. D., Pennsylvania.

Chemistry—T. L. A. Greve, M. D., Ohio. J. C. Spray, M. D., Illinois. Alex. Wilder, M. D., New York.

Ophthalmic and Aural Surgery—Henry Olin, M. D., Illinois. H. H. Cahill, M. D., New York. George H. Field, M. D., Missouri.

Diseases of the Rectum and Anus—John Stowe, M. D., Massachusetts. Milton Jay, M. D., Illinois. Robert S. Newton, M. D., New York.

Medical Statistics—R. S. Newton, M. D., New York. A. R. Brown, M. D., Michigan. R. W. Hathaway, M. D., Illinois.

Pharmacopœia—H. D. Garrison, M. D., Illinois. John M. Scudder, M. D., Ohio. John King, M. D., Ohio. E. S. McClellan, M. D., New York. T. L. A. Greve, M. D., Ohio.

Medical Jurisprudence—H. D. Garrison, M. D., Illinois. Henry Long, M. D., Indiana. M. F. Linquist, M. D., Connecticut.

Action of Medicines in the System—J. M. Scudder, M. D., Ohio. L. Abbott, M. D., Indiana. H. H. Brigham, M. D., Massachusetts.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs—H. W. Buxton, M. D., Massachusetts. B. F. Chapman, M. D., New York. B. B. Ussher, M. D., Illinois.

New Remedies—R. E. Kunzé, M. D., New York. Franklin Chavett, M. D., Illinois. Wm. Jones, M. D., New York.

Present Status of Eclecticism—N. R. Martin, M. D., Maine. George Dutton, M. D., Vermont. Henry West, M. D., Massachusetts. S. B. Munn, M. D., Connecticut. D. E. Smith, M. D., New York. C. D. Thompson, M. D., Pennsylvania. Z. Freeman, M. D., Ohio. James Cowdrey, M. D., Indiana. H. L. Baker, M. D., Michigan. H. Wohlgemuth, M. D., Illinois. James Bedford, M. D., Wisconsin. A. C. Sherwood, M. D., Iowa. R. M. Earl, M. D., Kansas. D. P. Youst, M. D., Maryland. J. F. Looke, M. D., Kentucky. Thomas R. Fraser, M. D., Nova Scotia.

Who Kills Their Children.

Mothers who send their little children into the streets and parks with nurses who in every respect are unfit, morally or physically, to be trusted with little children, are made to mourn the deaths of their loved ones. Why? because these careless

and irresponsible nurses neglect and expose these babes in such a way, that violent sickness is caused and followed by death.

Another evil is, these nurses will visit the houses of their friends in which the smoking of tobacco and the drinking of intoxicating liquors are practiced to a great extent, and very often, that the nurses may have a good time while there, will drug the babes to keep them still. The dreadful mortality attending children of families who are rich and reckless, may be accounted for by their being so many mothers who never have time to watch or care for their children, but trust all to servants. The coldest days during the past winter we have often seen babes only a few weeks old being carried or drawn through the streets by servants, while at the same time we heard the dreadful cough of pneumonia or croup—in a few days they passed away.—The question, Why so many die early under such circumstances? might be answered by another enquiry—Why all do not die? Now who kills their little ones? We answer, their mothers.

O. E. NEWTON, M. D., of Cincinnati, for many years one of the most extensive and successful Physician and Surgeon of Cincinnati, Ohio, has been spending several weeks in this city, for the purpose of recuperating his health and giving himself rest. His exclusive attention has been directed to his profession, excepting an interval of about one year since 1849. He is not only a graduate of the Eclectic Medical School, but is one of the most devoted friends and supporters of the practice, a man of remarkable judgment, which has ever given him a high place in the confidence of his medical friends and the community in which he lives and practices. No living physician or surgeon has been more successful in his profession. He has performed successfully many of the most dangerous and important operations in surgery. He for more than twenty years has contributed largely to the medical literature of the profession, principally through the medical journals. His monograph on Asiatic Cholera, published in 1867, had a large sale and was highly commended by the profession.

His surgical museum is one of the largest in the country. the result of private practice, unaided by chartered institutions, With his returning health, large experience and indomitable energy, his usefulness and success will still be greater.

Concentrated Medicines.

B. KEITH & Co., of New York City, is one of the oldest houses in the country in the manufacturing of Concentrated Medicines. We have used these medicines with great satisfaction since their first introduction. Their Manual on these preparations, edited by Grover Coe, M. D., is a volume of over 400 pages and is sold at $1.25. This is a valuable work on organic medicines.

Aromatic Liquid Pepsin.

During the last year we have had occasion to prescribe this preparation in a large number of cases, and found it reliable, uniform in its action and very serviceable to meet the conditions for which it is prepared. Messrs Lilly and Phelan have laid the medical profession under obligations by preparing and introducing this valuable remedy.

Cremation of the Dead.

A society has been formed in the city of New York to direct public attention favorably toward the adoption of the ancient Grecian custom of burning the dead. The noxious emanations of cemeteries afford abundance of sanitary arguments; and the outrageously lavish expenditure on burial paraphernalia, is the economic reason.

WHITHER THE MASTERS TEND.—Robert Liston, the greatest surgeon of modern times, was a Homœopathist; Sir John Forbes was an Eclectic; Sir James Clark, physician to Queen Victoria, was a Hydropathist; Sir Benjamin Brodie advocated Medical freedom.

R. E. KUNZÉ, M. D.,

At 606 Third Avenue, New York City, is now prepared to fill orders in every line of the Drug and Medicine business.

Every article that a practitioner may desire, as books, medicines, surgical instruments, splints and mechanical applications of every kind. In addition to the large list of his own manufactured articles he will attend to a general business in the trade.

FISTULA IN ANO.—In the treatment of fistula in ano, two methods have been adopted—one with the knife, and the other without. The former has been the mode most extensively adopted, but the results have been any thing but satisfactory. It not only fails to effect a cure, but often occasions more serious results than would have ensued from no treatment whatever. The most successful method of treatment consists of making such applications to the callused walls of the pipe as will bring its surfaces into a healthy granulating condition, In cases of *complete fistula* it is necessary to pass in a ligature. which gradually works its way out, and the fistula heals from the bottom as the ligature works through the tissue.

MEDICAL BOURBONISMS DECAYING.—A newspaper in Michigan had a call signed by four "regular" physicians in Newaygo County, who "do desire to meet their brethren of the profession, without regard to 'school or 'pathy,' to form a Medical Society." The signers are H. D. Root, D. W. Flora, R. L. Trask and H. C. Hawley. They set an example, noble and praiseworthy, which all physicians, who are men of sense and moral heroism will follow, at a day not so far distant as is supposed. In these days, when, despite pope, ancient *regime* or bigotry, the sun and moon do not stand still; the Galileos are coming.

TALK only about the subjects which you have had long in your mind, and listen when others speak about those which you have studied but recently.

WANT OF COURAGE.—A lady having been elected house surgeon to the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children and the Out-door Treatment of Women, in England, the honorary medical and surgical staff resigned their appointments in a body. "One shall chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight."

Miss Frances Willard has been appointed Professor of Æsthetics in the Woman's College of the Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois. Five of the Trustees are women.

REMOVING MERCURY OR LEAD FROM THE SYSTEM.

Place the feet of any person who has taken either of these preparations upon a polished copper plate immersed in warm water, enough to cover the feet; and into this water let a small quantity of common salt be added. Then to this plate must be attached the negative pole of a series of ten cups of Grove's battery, while the positive pole should be held in the hands of the person from whom the metal is to be taken. In the course of fifteen or twenty minutes the copper plate will indicate the presence of the metal, if mercury, in blotches or minute globules. To secure the entire eradication of these metals from the system, this should be continued once or twice a day for about twenty minutes each sitting, as long as any evidence of a deposit is manifested upon the plate.

JOHN HUNTER'S RULE.—"My rule is to consider deliberately before I commence whether the thing is practicable. If it be not practicable, I do not attempt it. If it is practicable I can accomplish it, if I give sufficient pains to it; and having begun, I never stop till the thing is done. To this rule I owe all my success.

SMALL-POX AMONG THE VACCINATED.—Dr. William Hitchman, President of the British Medical Reform Association, in his annual address, declares, "Small-pox is now raging amongst the vaccinated. Variola of a malignant type, not only in this country, but in Thun, Interlaken and Bernese Oberland, is often recurrent."

BACTERIA IN THE BLOOD.—Dr. Eberth, of Zurich, states that he has found in ordinary sweat as well as in yellow sweat, small oval-shaped bacteria, which are frequently united in strings of two or three and are endowed with considerable power of moving. In spots covered with hair they fasten to the hair and often form thick layers; or in some instances they penetrate into the hair, which then splits or breaks. Coloring by means of hæmatoxylin brings out the isolated bacteria as well as those collected on the hair. Dr. Eberth thinks it very probable that they produce certain chemical modifications of the sweat.

A man holding a debate to prove that persons living in the Western States enjoyed greater longevity, clinched his argument by asserting that every man there was living with his second wife.

WINE THAT IS RED.—M. Charvet, a French chemist, states that rosaniline, the coloring matter of artificially made red wines, contains arsenic, and will, if taken constantly, by accumulation, act as a poison. Invalids who are ordered to drink claret regularly, will do well to obey Solomon rather than their physicians—"Look not on the wine *when it is red*, when it giveth his [its] color in the cup."

CHLORAL IN CHOLERA.—An article in the *Allgemeine Medic. Central Zeitung* contains an account of the treatment of eight patients in the Riga Hospital, for cholera, with hydrate of chloral. Six recovered; the seventh was already moribund; and the eighth was a pregnant woman aged 35. The chloral early arrested the vomiting and diarrhea.

SILICATE OF SODA.—MM. Papillon and Roberteau, of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, have communicated a report on the therapeutic action of silicate of soda. It is efficacious in catarrh of the bladder when the urine tends to undergo ammoniacal fermentation, also in specific ulceration, venereal flowing, etc. It dissolves and destroys organic corpuscles, the globules of pus, and the microscopic parasites that engender corruption. It also exerts a certain action on the tissues.

MAMMOTHS STILL LIVING.—A sensation was created at the session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Portland, by the paper of Louis Feuchtwanger. The animal of the post-tertiary period, known by scientists as the Elephas primigenius, and by common people as the Mammoth, has been the subject of much learned investigation. Remains have been found in Siberia, near the river Lena in immense numbers, buried in the ice with their skins thoroughly preserved; and thousands of unfossilized tusks are carried thence to England to make handles for canes and umbrellas. A Russian convict, Cheriton Bachamachnik, a man of superior scientific attainments, discovered several months ago five living animals, twelve feet in height and eighteen feet in length, with projecting tusks four feet long. He prepared a full description of their characteristics, color, and habits, which are supposed to accord with that of the E. primigenius. He has been rewarded by the Emperor Alexander with his freedom in consideration of the discovery.

"PLACE AUX DAMES!"—A lady correspondent of Lippincott's Magazine, appeals very sensibly in the proper direction; "The young men of the day have much to do also. To them belongs the privilege of unbarring the doors of ancient prejudice to woman's thorough intellectual developement. From them must come admiration of sterling worth, appreciation of a noble life, and sympathy with all those struggles through which every thinking, reasoning being must pass."

But the "prejudice" is not "ancient." In the eleventh century the University of Salerno, in Italy, the first in the world to confer medical diplomas, had a number of female students, several of whom became quite distinguished. Constantia Calenda and the Abbess Hildegarda of Rupertsburg, among others, attained a high reputation for medical skill.

HIPPOCRATES ON CLAIRVOYANT DIAGNOSIS.—Hippocrates says, "When the eyes of certain persons are closed, the soul (*psuche*) perceives the affections of the body." *De Regim.*, Lib. iii.

BOOK TABLE.

Several notices of new books are crowded out by the accumulation of other matter which must be inserted.

Old and New has just completed its ninth volume. It is publishing Anthony Trollope's serial, "*The Way we Live Now;*" a series of papers by Rev. James Martineau, besides numerous original articles by American authors. Mr. F. B. Perkins' story, "Scrope, or the Lost Library," is decidedly the most attractive for the Young America school. The events are principally located in this city; and relate to men, scenes and occurrences, that many of us were familiar with. Mr. Van Braam and his house, the *Sodalité de l'Avenir*, the gambling hell, Gowans and his memorable book-store, we have all seen; but not that maiden aunt that left her student-nephew's books and papers in his room undisturbed. After all, the paper telling what we shall read is most practical of all in this right valuable magazine.

The American Phrenological Journal, like the serpent-divinity of Sanchoniathan, casts off each season the aging it has received at the hand of time, and becomes the newest as well as the freshest, of our monthly magazines. Mr. Wells, the proprietor, goes up to his farm of summers to grow young. In the present volume he has given biography enough for a small cyclopædia, besides original papers on every topic that interests a living man, that thinks and believes and does not worship at the foul shrine of modern politics or at the feet of the money-god. Among the men perpetuated are, Agassiz, Judge Waite, "Old Probabilities," and a score of others as well-known and distinguished, both living and dead.

But as if Anthropology was not enough to employ him, the same active man is also publishing *The Science of Health*, a monthly most valuable to readers, if not to physicians, in which sanitary, physiological, and a great variety of scientific topics are treated ably, and in language easy and familiar, almost divested of the slang of technology. The two periodicals are well-filled with select matter; indeed we think that truth lies in wells.

The Eclectic Medical College.

Commencement Exercises.

The tenth commencement of the Eclectic Medical College, was held at the Cooper Institute, on Tuesday evening, February 3d, 1874. The attendance was very large; the Hall was crowded, and many were compelled to go away, unable to enter.

The Chair was taken, at eight o'clock, by the President; and prayer was offered by the Rev. C. C. Goss.

W. H. Burnham, M. D. Professor of Anatomy, delivered an address upon the status and prospects of Eclectic Medicine.

The report of the Session was read by Dr. Julius von Meyer, Professor of Materia Medica; from which we make the following extracts:

"Since the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York was incorporated by the Legislature, in 1865, there have been ten academical sessions. At the close of the present, the tenth, the whole number of degrees conferred will aggregate as follows:

Graduates, 188; gentlemen, 156, ladies, 32. Degrees, *ad eundem*, 40; Honorary, 35; total, 263.

The graduates most of them are engaged in successful and lucrative practice. Considering the fiery ordeal through which the institution has passed, the fact that at the opening, the financial panic was at its height, insomuch that many, of whose attendance we had been assured, found themselves unable to procure the means necessary to defray their expenses while here, the class was larger than we expected. Discouraging as were the circumstances at the first, the students, I am proud to say, gathered around their instructors with one accord; and by their faithfulness and regular attendance by day and evening, by their excellent and uniformly courteous behavior, and by their eager disposition to learn and understand the many intricate and perplexing subjects connected with the knowledge of the healing art, they greatly lightened the labor of those who lectured, rendering it a labor of love

indeed. It is with no little exultation that I am able to-night to say in behalf of my colleagues, and of the trustees and officers of this Institution, that the wish of the former Secretary of the Faculty, Dr. Paul W. Allen, has been prophetic;

'May those who return in October next, again to prosecute their studies in this College, graduate with honors equal to these whom we, to-night, so gladly welcome to the courtesies and sympathies and usefulness of the accomplished physician.'

The tenth class of graduates, numbering five gentlemen and four ladies, after thorough and rigid examination by the different Boards, has been pronounced by them fully equal to any of the former classes. In their opinion no class has better deserved the honors and privileges which the degrees about to be conferred, will extend to them."

The President of the Faculty, Dr. Robert S. Newton, Professor of Surgery, announced the names of the candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, as follows, namely:

Graduates, George Cooper, Brooklyn, N. Y.; John A. Elliott, New York City; Miss Lucy W. Harrison, Jacksonville, N. Y.; Edwin Hungerford, Avon, N. Y.; Edward H. Kennedy, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Miss Sara McEntee, Kingston, N. Y.; Miss Mara W. Ormandy, New York City; John C. Quinn, New York City; Mrs. Mary Corwin Young, Five Corners, N. Y.

Ad Eundem. Mrs. Alice Kay, England; Henry J. Sweny, Mass.

Honorary Degree. Mrs. Carrie A. M. Burnham, New York City; George L. Frankenstein, New York City; George V. House, New York City; Simon P. Taft, Newark, N. J.; John W. Culbertson.

The candidates for graduation advancing to the platform, the President of the Board of Trustees, Alexander Wilder, then presented each of the graduates with the diploma of the College, and addressed them as follows:

"By the authority committed to me by the laws of the state of New York, in the name of the corporation of this College, sanctioned by its Faculty, Censors and Trustees, I hereby confer upon you, each and severally, the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and do declare you entitled to all the honors, dignities, privileges and emoluments which pertain by law and custom to the same.

You are now set apart, ordained and consecrated, *regular* practitioners of medicine. The law of the state of New York is your warrant as such. Your degree comes from an institution erected by a special statute with full powers, and you have accomplished the legal term of instruction which is prescribed. As regards physicians, your rank and claims cannot be questioned. We have no established church in our state or country, with right divine to dominate the consciences of men, and prescribe the standard of religious orthodoxy; thank God for that. We have no established school or hierarchy of medicine, with analogous powers, to exert like despotism or assert similar pretensions. The claim, the assumption, of any school or body of medical practitioners, that only those who subscribe to their dogmas and ethics, and are approved by their guild, are regular, and the only proper physicians, is an usurpation to be scouted, to be opposed, to be resisted to the last. There is no apostolic succession in medicine, having the least right to any such assumption or invasion of your prerogative. The Eclectic and the Homœopathist, by the law of our state and its jurisprudence, are regular physicians. By that stand fast.

It is a part of my duty, in addressing you, to speak of obligations which you now assume. We impose upon you no code except the sacred relations which exist between one human being and another. You are obligated by no ethics except those of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, 'that whatsoever things you would that others do to you, the same you shall do to them.' Outside of that is despotism, degradation, usurpation over personal rights and conscience. You are now apostles consecrated and ordained to go forth in the name and power of the Great Physician, to 'heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils, raise the dead.' You carry our best wishes with you.

Your profession is more than old; its antiquity far transcends history. It dates not to Galen nor to Hippocrates; even Æsculapius the Greek, and Cheiron the Centaur, are modern. It is a priesthood the oldest and holiest of all priesthoods, or at least their noblest outcome. Its sciences were included in the sacred esoteric wisdom, guarded by the watchful dragon of the Mysteries; and none were permitted to leave there till careful probation had qualified him, nor then till the most solemn oaths had bound him to divulge nothing to the unholy and profane. We learn from the Hebrew prophet, that Egypt had the knowledge of healing medicines.* Thither we know that sages used to resort to learn their philosophy. Homer tells

* Jeremiah, lxvi. 11.

us that in Egypt 'each physician was skilled above all other men;'† and Herodotus assures us that the Egyptians, next to the Libyans, were the healthiest people of the world, owing to their intelligent care of themselves.‡ Pliny asserts that medicine was an Egyptian discovery, and tells of *post-mortem* examinations to discover the causes of death.§ The Achæmenian kings of Persia maintained Egyptian physicians at their court.‖ 'Joseph commanded his servants, the physicians, to embalm his father, and the physicians embalmed Israel.'¶

The record of the physician extends far anterior to Abraham, forty centuries or more before our era. After the death of Menes, the founder of the first dynasty, his son Athothis or Hermogenes, is registered as having written 'the works on anatomy, for he was a physician.' Rawlinson plausibly conjectures that he was the same as Tosorthrus of the Third Dynasty, who was called Asclepius or Æsculapius from his medical knowledge, the first who built with hewn stone, and a great patron of literature. This was before Cheops or the pyramids. Women as well as men practiced the sacred calling. After our era the Arabians and Jews conveyed what was known, into Europe; and the first medical college on record, was opened eight centuries ago, at Salerno, in Italy, where women took seats beside men to learn the art of healing; for it was considered, as with the old Germans, a vocation peculiarly the function of women. In, therefore, giving women place in our classes, we are but restoring the former customs. While, at a neighboring hospital, maintained by public taxation, the students systematically insult ladies seeking clinical knowledge, the authorites wink at the outrage, with us, ladies are welcomed as equals.

You have been instructed in the peculiar science, treatment and hygiene of the Eclectic School of Medicine. You have been indoctrinated in a safe as well as scientific mode of medication. We, of the Eclectic school, have made a new era in medicine. We have terminated the custom of blood-letting in American practice. We have furnished a new pharmacopœia, which our Old School neighbors, generally omitting to give us credit for, have taken and appropriated to themselves. We have thus evangelized medicine. We look to you to continue the work as fellow-laborers and apostles. No code of ethics born of the Dark Ages, framed and enforced for purposes of professional persecution and outlawry, is imposed on you. We remit you to your own conscience and intelligence.

† Odyssey iv. 229. ‡ Herodotus, book ii. 77. § Pliny, vii. 56, and xix. 5.
‖ Herodotus, iii. 1. 129. ¶ Genesis, l. 2.

Personally, we have the most cordial acknowledgments to render to you. You have won our good-will by your admirable deportment and your close attention to study. In evil report as well as in good, you have remained firmly our students and our friends. I must add, however, that we have deserved it from you. As having been your place of instruction, you will always have a certain dependence on the future prosperity of this institution. Your success is our sucess. I shall not declare the severence of the bonds which connect us so vitally. Wherever you go, whatever your career and fortunes, you are 'bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh.'"

Dr. J. W. Van Namee read an original poem.

Miss Lucy W. Harrison, M. D., on the part of the graduates, then delivered the Valedictory Address which was received with great enthusiasm.

Alumni Association of the Eclectic Medical College of New York.

The annual meeting of the Association of the Alumni of the College was held at the College, February 4th, 1874.

The following officers were elected for the present year:

President, Alexander Wilder, M. D.,
Vice President, Sylvester Roe, M. D.,
Secretary, Julius von Meyer, M. D.,
Treasurer, Mrs. Maria B. Hayden, M. D.

Thirteen new members were elected. The Association now numbers forty-eight members.

A meeting of the Association will be held at the College Building, May 29th, 1874, at 9 o'clock A. M.

A full attendance is urgently requested, as matters of importance will be brought before the Association.

New York, April 24th, 1874.

J. VON MEYER, M. D., *Sec.*

VISITORS.—FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE are respectfully invited to be present at the Commencement Exercises of the Spring Session, to be held at Robinson's Hall, 18 East 16th Street, on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, May the 28th, 1874.

The Eclectic Medical College.

The Winter Session begins on the first Tuesday in October, 1874, and will continue sixteen weeks. The Spring Session will begin on the first Tuesday in February, 1875, and continue sixteen weeks.

We assure students of this college of as good opportunities for medical instruction as can be obtained at any similar institution in the United States. No medical college has so large a percentage of its graduates in successful and reputable practice. By that criterion we are willing to be tested.

The inducements to select New York for the place at which to prosecute the studies of medicine and surgery are not surpassed. Besides the regular daily lectures are also the advantages afforded by access to the general hospitals, of witnessing surgical operations, and observing different methods of treatment. All medical students are permitted, on procurement of the requisite tickets, to be present at the Bellevue cliniques, at regular periods each week.

The principles of medicine taught at this college, are those of the Reformed and Eclectic School. We are distinct, rather than exclusive, believing that we are right, and confident that we shall show good reason for that belief. No colleges, not of our faith, teach our Materia Medica or practice, or are willing that their students shall learn or adopt it. Hence we exist, and existing, inculcate the better, safer, more successful methods of treating the sick. We are Eclectic, in that we regard every doctrine and form of practice, and apply the apostolic rule; "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

The name Eclectic, which we do not shrink from, has been adopted for the reasons here indicated. It is appropriate because American Medical Reform is based on eclecticism, in every department. Our researches have not resulted, as adversaries love to assert, in a mere accumulation of material, but in the discovering of a large number of new and superior

remedies, and we rejoice to add in the discarding of dangerous and noxious agents, for which more efficient and safer substitutes have been obtained; and thus a great and comprehensive system of medical practice has been organized, upon the basis of a wide, enlightened experience. Ours is the credit due for the discovery, proving and adoption of many new and important remedies from indigenous medicinal plants, and of the application of successful scientific methods of extracting their active principles, so as to render the agents equally efficient and more acceptable.

A distinctive and fundamental principle of the Eclectic School of Medicine is that no medicinal agent or course of treatment should be adopted, which impairs the vital power. The remedies which are safest and act most closely in accordance with physiological law should be preferred, sought and employed. This is the head and front of whatever "irregularity" has been imputed to us. We boldly assert that the fancied necessity for the employment of noxious medical agencies is a delusion. The terrible consequences following their use, which have been observed and acknowledged by distinguished medical teachers and practitioners, is a sufficient refutation of the plea that they are required. All necessary purposes can be effected, in our present stage of knowledge, imperfect as it may be, by remedies more harmless as well as efficacious; consequently, we do not sanction the employment of mercurials, lead, arsenic, antimony, or the lancet. *Esse quam videri.*

Students should be particular to provide themselves with the best text-books upon the principal sciences; avoiding all the quasi-scientific publications which were "made to sell." It is the province of instructors to aid them in reading and mastering their books, rather than in giving quotations of what ought to be in them. Eclectic and Reformed authors upon Materia Medica, Surgery, Obstetrics, the Theory and Practice of Medicine, should, of course, have the preference.

We represent a distinct school of medicine, and mean to present faithfully its distinctive views, aware that, "new wine is put into new bottles, and thus both are preserved." The cardinal principle of liberality is consistency. But while thus strenuous

in declaring our views, and purposes, we shall not "pluck" or in any other way deal dishonestly by any student that may not accept the sentiments and practice which we uphold.

Requisites for Graduation.

CANDIDATES for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must present satisfactory evidence that they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are of good moral character; they must have studied medicine three years with some respectable practitioner, and have attended two full Courses of Lectures in some legally incorporated College—or they must have attended three Courses of Lectures and studied two years, the last of which shall have been attended in this College—or they must have been engaged in a constant and reputable practice of medicine for four years, and have attended one full Course of Lectures in this College.

FEES.

Fees for a Full Course of Lectures	$100
Matriculation Fee	5
Demonstrator's Fee	5
Graduation Fee	30
Hospital Tickets	3
For certificate of Scholarship, for which the holder may attend two or more Courses of Lectures, or until graduation, to be paid in advance	150

TEXT-BOOKS OF THE COLLEGE.

ANATOMY.—Gray; Wilson.
SURGERY.—Syme, by Newton; Erichsen; Gross; Hill; How.
THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.—King; Newton; Scudder; Bennett.
MATERIA MEDICA.—Coe; Jones and Scudder; American Dispensatory.
PHYSIOLOGY.—Dalton; Draper; Carpenter; Flint; J. Hughes Bennett.
OBSTETRICS.—King; Ramsbotham; Cazeaux; Tyler Smith.
DISEASES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—Newton and Powell; Scudder.
CHEMISTRY.—Gregory, by Sanders; Brande; Bowman; Miller; Draper.
PHARMACY.—King; Jones and Scudder; Coe; Parish; Proctor.
MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—Taylor; Beck.

Any further information may be obtained by addressing any member of the Faculty, or ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D. President of the Faculty, 137 West 47th St., New York City.

FACULTY OF 1873–'4.

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,
Professor of Surgery and Surgical Diseases.

JOS. R. BUCHANAN, M. D.,
Professor of Anthropology and Physiological Institutes of Medicine.

JULIUS VON MEYER, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pharmacy.

WM. ARCHER, M. D.,
Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine.

JAMES M. COMINS, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

W. H. BURNHAM, M. D.,
Professor of Descriptive Anatomy.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D.,
Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

C. S. GAUNTT, M. D.,
Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

HERMAN BOSKOWITZ, M. D.,
Professor of Institutes of Homœopathy.

SAMUEL E. MORTIMORE, M. D.,
Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Instructions.

Good board may be had in convenient proximity to the College for six or seven dollars a week. Students arriving in the city can check their baggage or call at the COLLEGE, 223 EAST TWENTY-SIXTH STREET, where they will be assisted in procuring suitable boarding places.

THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D., ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

EDITORS.

VOL. I. JULY 15, 1874. No. 4.

"We know the authentic effects of the true fire through every one of its million disguises."—RALPH WALDO EMERSON.

THE ECLECTIC PLATFORM.

REFORMED Medicine originated from the people rather than from the Schools. It lays under contribution all the real science which others possess, as we make the vegetable and animal world supply us with food, and avail ourselves of the labors of our fellow-beings; but it is not, therefore, the offshoot of any other school of the healing art. It is not a mere protest, but a distinct mode of practice. It sprang up in America, among republicans, and assumed its present dimensions and importance in spite of persecution, calumny and treachery. Its doctrines are taught in its own text-books, journals and colleges, and nowhere else. They are distinct from those inculcated by other medical teachers. In their negative character they consist in the emphatic rejection as medicines of those agents or substances which are known to be baleful and poisonous in their character, having for their use no necessity or adequate justification, and in the exclusion from our catalogue of remedies, wholly and unqualifiedly, blood-letting, the several compounds and preparations of mercury, antimony, arsenic and lead. In their affirmative assertion they define the province of the physician to be

that of a minister and auxiliary of nature, seeking to aid the physical system to relieve itself of morbid elements and recover the normal performance of its functions. The declaration of a distinguished author of the Old School that one disease is cured by producing another is unsound in principle, and opposed to correct practice in the healing art.

We are liberal, often differing widely, yet as brethren, from each other in modes of treatment, and perhaps in theory in specific cases. In respect to what we reject, we do not mean to imply that other agents are not equally noxious and improper for an intelligent and conscientious physician to use; but that so far we have established milestones in our progress. In the language of Augustin of Hippo; "In essentials let there be unity; in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity."

Yet we are not so tenacious about restrictions as to demand the eradication of every footmark that proclaims our direction and distance away from Old School practice. As it is no distasteful infringement of our liberty, that the statutes forbid murder, burglary, and highway-robbery, because we do not desire to commit those acts, so we object not to any exclusion in the platform of our state society, because we do not want permission to bleed or poison with arsenic, antimony or calomel. A liberality of such a murderous character seems to us to savor of the *fraternity* of the French Revolution; "*sois non frere ou je te tue*"—be my brother, or I kill thee. We adhere to the name of ECLECTIC, because our peers have decided to retain it; and to the doctrines and inhibitions, because they coincide with our convictions.

Though in regard to medicine, we would not be in any servile sense the disciple or partisan of any man, we accept and follow the teachings of the Fathers of Eclectic Medicine, Beach, Morrow, and their fellow-laborers, as the same have been enlarged and improved by the discoveries of a later period. Medical Eclecticism is no patent-right, or secret order, as some seem to desire it to be; nor is it applied by us to "exclusive views," as Dunglison ignorantly asserts; and certainly it is not the mere refuge of illiterate persons that no other school of practice would tolerate. Its latitude and liberality are solely in the interest of science and humanity; what is rejected and discarded is what is noxious and mischievous. A safe and sure treatment of the sick is the goal of our aspiration.

THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE commencement exercises of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, for the eleventh time, were held at Robinson Hall, Thursday evening, May 28th, 1874, commencing at eight o'clock.

After music by McCormick's orchestra,

The chair was taken, at eight o'clock, by the President; and prayer was offered by the Rev. William P. Corbett, of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The report of the session was made by William Archer, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, from which we extract the following:

"The Eleventh Session began on the 10th of February, 1874, and concluded on the evening of the 28th. The number of matriculants is 35; graduates, 11. The degree is conferred *ad eundem* upon 3; and Honorary upon 4.

The Session has been interesting, and compares well with the sessions preceding.

Several of the matriculants had graduated at the close of the winter session. Their attendance at the spring session indicated a due appreciation of instruction in the healing art, and confidence in the ability of their collegiate instructors. About one-half of the present graduating class had previously been students in Homœopathic and Allopathic Institutions, but, through means best known to themselves, changed their proclivities, and finally attended at this college, and now receive our degree.

The class has been characterized by the following traits, namely: 1st, Fraternal fellowship; 2d, punctual attendance; 3d, due attention to lectures, and friendly as well as respectful regard to their instructors; 4th, appreciation of Eclecticism, theoretical and practical, and the conviction that our system is not empirical, but rational, fundamental, built on the foundation of truth, with its superstructure destined to rise higher and higher, and that it is the system to which others are destined to converge. Voluntarily and unsolicited they have drawn up and adopted for publication, a series of eulogistic resolutions, relative to the several members of the faculty; and whether the praises bestowed are too flattering or not, it is certainly a pleasure to know that as students, they are satisfied with their instructors,

and in the severing of their present relations with us, they are not unmindful of the labors and services of their teacher, nor ungrateful to their *Alma Mater.*

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Faculty.

WILLIAM ARCHER."

The list of candidates for graduation was announced by Dr. Robert S. Newton, President of the Faculty, as follows:

Isaac J. Brooks,.....Connecticut.
Willis E. Crowell,.....New York.
Mrs. Ada E. Cooley,.....New York.
Henry Furber,.....New York.
Almeron J. Holcombe,.....New York.
Theodore D. Lyons,.....New York.
Miss Hattie Montague,.....New Jersey.
Alonzo R. Pettit,.....New York.
Fernando L. L. Scharlach,.....Ohio.
Isaac P. Whitehead,.....New Jersey.
James E. Wright,.....Connecticut.
David Davieson,.....Pennsylvania.

AD EUNDEM.

Mrs. Jeannie S. Dyke, M. D.,.....New York.
Henry Wells, M. D.....Argentine Rupublic.
C. F. Cook, M. D.,.....California.

HONORARY.

Orin Davis, M. D.....New York.
Robert Hamilton, M. D.,.....New York.
Harmon Pease, M. D.,.....New York.

The candidates for graduation having come upon the platform, the President, Dr. Alexander Wilder, addressed them as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I am gratified equally with yourselves at this successful conclusion of your term of study. It has been arduous, and has had its full share of annoyances and anxieties. So it is with all the experiences of life. In accepting now, these diplomas, you assume the well-known obligation of the 'Hippocratic Oath,' which I briefly recapitulate: to perform faithfully the duties of your profession; to maintain its honor and dignity; preserve inviolate the secrets and confidential disclosures of patients, and to uphold the cause of science; to preserve your own life pure and holy; and into whatsoever house

you enter, to go for the good of the patient, abstain from inflicting any voluntary injury, and from leading any away, whether man or woman, bond or free.

"In the name of the corporation of this College, sanctioned by the joint and unanimous voice of your instructors, and of the Censors and Trustees, and pursuant to the authority conferred by the charter, and also by the laws of this state, I now confer upon you each and severally, the degree of Doctor of Medicine; and with the receiving of these diplomas, you now become regular physicians, the graduates of a regularly-incorporated medical college, and as such entitled and eligible to the rank, honors, dignities, power, emoluments, privileges and immunities to which physicians are eligible and entitled by the laws of this State. By these laws, and by the decision of the highest court of judicature, you are regular physicians beyond dispute, or question, or innuendo; and by the terms of the Federal Constitution, the powers and rank now conferred upon you, are acknowledged and to be regarded accordingly in all the States of this Union.

"You are initiated into a school of Liberal Medicine. No Code of Ethics obligates you; you are under no barbarous or absolute despotism that prescribes 'that no one may buy or sell save he that hath the mark, or name of the beast, or the number of his name.' We charge upon you only honor and honesty, the Golden Rule to do to others as you would they should do to you. Regard strictly and conscientiously the terms of the sacred obligation which I have repeated to you. Associate with your professional brethren, and maintain organizations for alliance with those of like belief. Do not be Ishmaelites, with your hands and tongues constantly raised in bitterness against others; and do no one a wrong.

"The practice of medicine which we have endeavored to inculcate upon you is merciful in its intention, and careful of inflicting suffering or permanent harm. A mutilated patient is too often the living monument of ignorant surgery. A patient made whole of whatever disease he had and no chronic ailment entailed upon him, is the witness of the true Reformed Practice.

"We do not discard that which is old because it is old. He who follows the old will always be a child; he who refuses to follow the old will never be a man. Bacon has said: 'Disciples

owe to their masters only a temporary belief, a suspension of their own judgment, until they be fully instructed; and not an absolute resignation or perpetual captivity.' Under our lessons, we may have seemed to keep you within a limited curriculum, but it was only for the time necessary. The field is broad, and you are at full liberty, with our benisons, to occupy it. When the Rev. John Robinson dismissed the hundred and one pilgrims to take passage in the Mayflower for the New World, he distinctly charged them to regard it as an article of their creed to be ready to receive every newly-discovered truth that they learned. 'I cannot but bewail the condition of the Reformed Churches,' said he. 'The Lutherans can see nothing beyond what Luther saw; and the Calvinists cannot accept any revelation not made plain by that eminent man of God. Yet those men, burning and shining lights in their day, saw not all things. It is not possible for this world so lately overwhelmed in the midnight of Egyptian darkness, to emerge at once into meridian day. And now, brethren, I commend you unto God and to the word of his grace; that as we part, to behold each others' face no more, you may be cared for in his providence; and I charge you to be as ready to receive the truth from such source as he may open to you with the same readiness, as if it came from my mouth.'

"So you, going forth from our teachings, hesitate not to render the best and most efficient aid you may, to those receiving your ministrations. Our Eclectic Medicine is but the apostolic rule to 'prove all things, and hold fast that which is good.'

"But the secret of success exists in the physician himself. He must do the cure, rather than the medicine which he administers. Hence, he should observe the most perfect morality. It is essential to success. The vocation was always regarded as divine. There was never such a man as Æsculapius; the name was but a title of the Sun-God, and the function was well expressed by the sentence of the prophet—'To you that fear my name, shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.' With the gospel of Christianity came the injunction, 'Heal the sick;' and even Pagans believed that physicians were sons of God. 'Next to God is the physician,' said Plato. The vocation should lose none of its sacredness in our hands.

"As Eclectics, we choose as wisely as we may of treatment and

medicines which have been employed by others before us. We totally discard the lancet, because it is a destroying weapon; we have wholly and entirely, as a school of medicine, denounced the use of mercury, arsenic and antimony, because they are poisons deadly to the vital economy; and we hope to be able to add still further to the list of rejected agents. We have let air and water into the sick-room, and caused it to cease to be a place of torture We have revolutionized the treatment of the sick, even that employed by rival schools of medicine. These things we have endeavored to teach to you; and they constitute what we understand by Eclecticism.

"Our best wishes attend you. It is as gratifying to us to confer our degree upon you, as to you to receive it. You are now our peers in medical rank. You are entrusted with the same ministrations, and we trust, and little doubt that you will render good account of yourselves. Our best wishes attend you, each and all, in every good work."

After music by the orchestra, Dr. A. E. Pettit, coming upon the platform, read the following:

"At a meeting of the Class of 1874, of the Eclectic Medical College, of the City of New York, held at the rooms of that institution, May 21st, 1874, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"*Whereas:* The eleventh regular term of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, is near its close, and we, the students of the Senior Class, are about to separate for other fields of labor; and, whereas, we desire accordingly to express our hearty acknowledgments to our instructors for their uniform kindness and courtesy, which have won the esteem and cordial regard of all the members of the class; therefore

"*Resolved:* That we regard the existence of an Eclectic College of Medical Instruction in this city, as an invaluable and necessary agency for the evolving and dissemination of medical knowledge: that the broad principles and liberal views set forth by the several teachers, commend themselves to our approval, as in advance of those promulgated in rival schools, and as calculated to exalt the tone and increase the efficiency of the medical profession.

"*Resolved:* That the gratitude of all friends of enlightened medicine is due to Professor Robert S. Newton, for originating and

prosecuting to so much success, the proposition to establish this institution, of such vital importance to Eclectic and Reformed practice; while in the department of Surgery, his discovery of the method of treating successfully, a malady most terrible and which has heretofore baffled the ablest practitioners, entitles him of right to an exalted place in the ranks of Surgery and pathology.

"*Resolved:* That Doctor Boskowitz, our most accomplished and scholarly Professor of Homœopathy, has fully honored and magnified his office; while, at the same time, his endeavors to aid in placing this institution on a stable financial foundation, and to extend its scope of instruction, are worthy of honorable mention.

"*Resolved:* That the several gentlemen who have filled the other chairs of this College, have performed their respective parts with fidelity, and to our fullest approbation; that their familiar, explicit and philosophical methods of instruction, making abstruse details interesting, and recondite facts easy to understand, deserve to be praised, as aiding to obtain correct and intelligent ideas upon the several sciences of Anatomy, Obstetrics, Physiology, Chemistry, the Theory and Practice of Medicine, the Materia Medica, and other branches of the Healing Art; that they have instructed us practically and with genuine erudition, without vain boasting or display, superficial eloquence, or professional empiricism, unsurpassed in any medical institution in this city; and we trust that our friendly relations with them will never cease.

Resolved: That the Trustees of this institution, who have at their own cost and sacrifice, provided the ample and generous facilities for instruction which we have enjoyed, in the earnest endeavor to maintain a school of liberal medicine in this city, for the dissemination of advanced ideas in science, and the permanent establishment of a safe and sure medical practice in keeping with the spirit of the century, deserve our thanks, our sympathy, and co-operation; and we wish them every prosperity personally, and especially in perfecting their arrangements for a medical college, with all requisite appointments for meeting the requirements of a thorough curriculum of study."

A. R. PETTIT,
J. P. WHITEHEAD,
J. J. BROOKS,
FERNANDO L. L. SCHARLACH,
THEODORE D. LYONS,
W. E. CROWELL,

H. FURBER, HATTIE M. MONTAGUE,
JAMES E. WRIGHT, MARK NIVISON,
A. J. HOLCOMBE, ADA E. COOLEY,
DAVID DAVIESON.

The validictory was then delivered by Isaac J. Brooks, M. D. It was a spirited document and elicited hearty applause.

Rev. Wm. P. Corbitt expressed his gratification at the progress of the College and the Eclectic School of Medicine, and invited the audience to join with him in the Doxology,

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

He then pronounced the Benediction.

The Annual Announcement of The Eclectic Medical College of New York City, for 1874-5.

FACULTY.

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,
Professor of Surgery and Surgical Diseases.
JOS. R. BUCHANAN, M. D.,
Professor of Anthropology and Physiological Institutes of Medicine.
JULIUS VON MEYER, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pharmacy.
WM. ARCHER, M. D.,
Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine.
JAMES M. COMINS, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.
S. E. MORTIMORE, M. D.,
Professor of Descriptive Anatomy.
ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D.,
Professor of Physiology and Pathology.
HERMAN BOSKOWITZ, M. D.,
Professor of Homœopathy.
J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., A. M.,
Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.
MARK NIVISON, M. D.,
Demonstrator of Anatomy.

REQUISITES FOR GRADUATION.

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must present satisfactory evidence that they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are of good moral character; they must have studied medicine three years with some respectable practitioner, and have attended two full Courses of Lectures in some legally

incorporated College; or they must have attended three Courses of Lectures and studied two years, the last of which shall have been attended in this College; or they must have been engaged in a constant and reputable practice of medicine for four years, and have attended one full Course of Lectures in this College.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

FEES.

Fees for a Full Course of Lectures, $100; Marticulation Fee, $5; Demonstrator's Fee, $5; Graduation Fee, $30; Hospital Tickets, $3; for Certificate of Scholarship, for which the holder may attend two or more Courses of Lectures, or until graduation, to be paid in advance, $150; for Certificate of Scholarship, entitling the holder to keep a Student in the College for ten years, $500; Certificate of Scholarship, entitling the holder to keep a Student in the College perpetually, $1,000.

Good board may be had in convenient proximity to the College for six or seven dollars a week. Students arriving in the city, can check their baggage or call at the College, 223 East Twenty-Sixth Street, where they will be assisted in procuring suitable boarding places.

TEXT-BOOKS.

Anatomy—Gray, Wilson. Surgery—Syme by Newton, Erichsen, Gross, Hill, How. Theory and Practice of Medicine—King, Newton, Scudder, Bennett. Materia Medica—Coe, Jones and Scudder, American Dispensatory. Physiology—Dalton, Draper, Carpenter, Flint, Bennett. Obstetrics—King, Ramsbotham, Cazeaux, Tyler Smith. Diseases of Women and Children—Newton and Powell, Scudder. Chemistry—Gregory by Sanders, Brande, Bowman, Miller, Draper. Pharmacy—King, Parish, Proctor. Medical Jurisprudence—Taylor, Beck.

The fall session of 1874 will commence October the 5th. The Spring session of 1875 will commence on the first Tuesday of February, 1875.

Any further information may be obtained by addressing any member of the Faculty, or Robert S. Newton, M. D., President of the Faculty, 137 West 47th Street, New York City.

CACTUS:

Its History, Classification, and Therapeutical Application.

BY RICHARD E. KUNZE, M. D.

Member of the American Botanical Institute.

(Continued from May No.)

Cereus Thurberi, or Thurber's Cactus, named in honor of Dr. George Thurber, (an eminent botanist of this city, who discovered the first specimen some twenty years hence while on an exploring expedition in Arizona), grows in the Papajo Indian country, on the borders of Arizona and Sonora, 10 to 20 feet high, 4 to 6 inches in diameter, and with from five to fifteen stems from one root. It has from thirteen to fourteen ribs, very slightly prominent, and bears two crops of fruit per year. This Cactus is called "*Pitahaya*" by the Mexicans. It flowers from late in May to July, and the fruit matures in July and August. The flowers are borne usually from 6 to 12 inches below the top of the plant, are 3 inches in length, a little less in diameter, and funnel shaped. The petals are stiff, curling and of a cream-white color. The stamens are yellow and very numerous. The fruit is about the size and shape of an egg, and is thickly covered with long, black spines. As it ripens it becomes tinged with red, the spines fall off, the fruit splits open and exposes a rich red, juicy pulp, inclosing numerous small black smooth seeds. At this time the pulp is rather mawkish to the taste; but a few days exposure to the sun dries it to about one-third its original bulk, and the whole mass drops out of the skin. In this state it has the consistency of the pulp of a dried fig, and the saccharated matter being concentrated by drying, it somewhat resembles that fruit in taste. The Pimo and other Indians collect the pulp and roll it into balls, in which state it probably keeps the whole year, as it was offered to an exploring party of the Mexican Boundary Commission, which passed along the route of the River Gila, a confluent of the Colorado, in January, 1851.

This is a decidedly better fruit than that of the *Cereus giganteus*, but it is used in every respect for the same domestic purposes.

The Papajo Indians, in transporting earthen vessels filled with syrup or preserves made of this fruit, to market, cover their jars with a thick coating of mud, which renders them less liable to break in handling, and at the same time keeps the contents cool and prevents evaporation, the crockery used being very porous. The fruit is used in enormous quantities, and being very nutritious, the consumers quickly acquire an extraordinary increase of bulk. In making wine and syrup, the seeds are easily separated from the pulp by the use of water. They are carefully collected, dried, parched and pulverized, after which process they too are digestible and quite nutritious.

Cereus serpentinus is another Cactus which is quite plentiful in the West Indies, and of very prolific growth. It is 10-angled, erect, weak, cylindrical, and has white spines, weak also. It is from 1 to 2 inches in diameter. The flowers are larger than those of the Rat-tail Cactus *(Cereus flagelliformis)*, and are of a white color with a greenish flower tube. The fruit is plum-shape and of a yellowish color. This species contains medicinal properties.

Opuntia vulgaris, Prickly Pear or Indian Fig Cactus had been named after the town of Opus, in the country of the Opuntiani, near Lochris of ancient Greece, where it was found plentiful, as well as in other countries of Southern Europe. And Theophrastus is accredited with having named it, about which there is some doubt when we take into consideration the fact claimed by Botanists, that of its having been introduced and become naturalized in Southern Europe, the American continent and isles being its native habitat. It bears a yellow flower and its fruit is of a red color and pear-shaped, covered with bunches of fine spines. In the 35th degree of latitude of this country, where it arrives like all other varieties of Cacti at its greatest perfection, the fruit is much used as an article of food by all the Indian tribes. Here the plants often attain a height of 10 to 12 feet, with a spread of many more in circumference, making as it were, impenetrable thickets to man or beast. Near Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, the Opuntiæ are used for hedges of many enclosures, and there it grows to the height of 8 to 10 feet. In the West Indies, where 15 feet is not an unusual height of this Cactus, its succulent leaves are used by the negroes for washing clothes in place of soap. These juicy leaves when bruised and rubbed up with water, make a very good lather. Our soldiers

who were stationed in the Gulf States during the late civil war, had often substituted it when soap could not be obtained.* It is found growing as far north as Massachusetts, but rather dwarfish in habit, growing not much over a foot high. In our war with Mexico, these Cacti became a source of much trouble to the American soldiers, who not being acquainted with the nature of the fine spines with which the surface of the ground was strewn, endure much suffering, caused from irritation of the skin by them.

Opuntia Engelmanni, Rafinesquii, Camanchica and other varieties of Prickly pear are largely found in New Mexico, Arizona, California and Utah. The fruit of all these Cacti are known under the common Spanish name of "*Tunas*," and much eaten by all the Indians of those states, who dry great quantities of them for winter's use. These plants grow in arid desert regions which produce nothing better ; the fruit of all these are of a bright red to purple color, and large size. They are rather pleasant, sweet, somewhat acid taste, have thin skins and rather large seeds, which are discarded. The skin is studded with bunches of very fine downy spines, which the Indians brush off with a bunch of grass. The Apaches use wooden tongs to gather the fruit, to prevent being scratched by these spines or the thorns of the plant. The Pawnees and Papajoes dry the unripe fruit of the *Opuntia* for future use, to be cooked with meat and other substances. The fresh unripe fruit is often boiled in water from 10 to 12 hours, until soft, when it becomes like apple-sauce ; then being allowed to ferment a little, it becomes stimulating and nutritious. Some Indians roast the leaves of the *Opuntia* in hot ashes, and when cooked, the outer skin with the thorns is easily removed, leaving a slimy, sweet, succulent substance, which is eaten. Hunger and destitution frequently compel Indians and white men to live for many days on this food. Even the Mustang and wild asses know how to satisfy their thirst with it—first, by carefully knocking off the prickly spines with their hoofs, and then safely sucking

* This is easily accounted for when we consider that many of the Cacti contain a large percentage of alkali, which they take up as plant-food from the soil they grow in. We have this illustrated in the decomposed and dessicated specimens of the Melon-Cactus, which are so abundantly found along the shores of the Gulf States. In the centre of what was once a gigantic Cactus, you will find a heap of granular calcareous powder, the very element which the Cactus had appropriated from the soil, in the form of a carbonate, and having served its purpose in the plant, is yielded up again in a new form—a Tartrate of Lime.

the cooling juice. A yellowish white gum often oozes out of the leaves of the *Opuntia*, which is also eaten. The flowers of these varieties are nearly all of a sulphur-yellow.

Opuntia ficus indica is very common in Jamaica, and on it feeds the wild cochineal insect. The fruit is large and of a deep purple color, and when eaten, dyes the urine of a bloody color.

Opuntia Tuna, another Prickly pear, is much used as a hedge plant in the West Indies and South America.

Between the English and the French, three rows of *Tuna* were planted by common consent between the boundaries. The flowers are of a dull yellow with a roseate blush on the petals of the outer circle, and quite of large size: anthers yellow on long white filaments. The fruit is of a sanguineous color and eatable. It is, when quite ripe, said to check fluxes by its mild astringency: it is also a powerful diuretic, and sometimes imparts a tinge to the urine. It is quite abundant in Jamaica.

Opuntia cochinillifera, or Cochineal Fig is the species on which the cochineal insect feeds, or at least chiefly so. Its flower is red or purple, and the fruit which is larger than that of Opuntia vulgaris, is also edible. On the top of this fruit is imbedded a little hard, triangular-looking body, the remnant of the style, which, if not discarded, is sure to induce severe constipation. Travellers not aware of this fact, have often had to suffer from this inconvenience, after having partaken of too liberal an allowance of this inviting luscious fruit, in the arid region of tropical America and the Antilles. Mr. Isaac Buchanan relates, that the remedy given to such self-indulgent mortals, is Castor oil; not the cold-pressed crystal oil, such as prepared from the beans here at the North, but instead, a nauseous, oily mess, containing rather more of the fresh bean itself than palatable, as hastily prepared by some plantation negro. This Opuntia is largely cultivated for feeding the cochineal insect, because least annoying by its fewer spines than other varieties. The plant is called by the Indians and Mexicans, *Nopal*, and when cultivated to produce the Cochineal, they are then called Nopal Plantations. There are two kinds of Cochineal gathered and offered for sale, vastly different in size and quality, which it may be interesting here to state. These Opuntias, for the cultivation of Cochineal are planted to a great extent in the country about Oaxaca, Guaxaca and Chiapa in Mexico and the State of Guatemala, adjoining the former Republic. The

female insects only are placed upon the leaves of the Cactus, generally after the rainy season is over, where, after depositing their eggs, they die quickly. The heat of a tropical sun very soon hatches out an immense number of the young insects. They spread out all over the plant and feed on the same until they are ready to be fecundated by the males. These are provided with wings, whereas the females have none. After this, the females attach themselves to the leaves, and although previous to this of very active movements, now only increase rapidly in size, and when fully matured, are almost shapeless and appear more like excrescences of the plant itself than animated beings. At this stage of their development, they are detached by means of blunt knives, feathers, etc., and a few only left to propagate their race. They are then destroyed by dipping them enclosed in a bag into boiling water, which causes them to swell to twice their natural size, and afterwards dried in the sun. Or they are destroyed in the first place by the heat of a stove, retaining thereby their bright silvery color. The males being much smaller, and representing only one to one hundred or more of females are not gathered. The cochineal obtained from the wild Nopal or Opuntia, and gathered by Indians of Central and South American States, is very inferior in size and quality for dyeing purposes. The manner of collecting the wild Cochineal insect is said to be as follows: On the top of the fruit there grows the red flower, and this, when the fruit is ripe falls down on the top of it and serves as a covering, so that no dew or rain can wet the inside. A day or two after, the flower being scorched up by the heat of the sun, the fruit opens wide and the inside appears full of small red insects. The Indians when they perceive the fruit open, spread a large linen cloth, and then with sticks shake the plant to disturb the insects. They take wing, but keep hovering over the plant, till, by the heat of the sun they fall dead on the cloth, where they are allowed to lay two or three days till they are dry. Six crops a year are sometimes taken of this wild Cochineal insect, and only three crops are taken annually when cultivated. Of the wild cochineal, the male insects mostly are thus secured—hence the inferiority.

Epiphyllum, or Crabsclaw Cactus; Synonyme, *Cactuphyllum* is another genus of which there are many handsome flowering varieties, all profuse bloomers, sometimes producing a hundred or more of gorgeous flowers on a single vigorous plant of good

size. One of them is said to be a night-blooming species. The branches of this genus of Cactus resemble leaves more than any other kind, and they are mostly without spines or bristles, except at the crenatures of these leafy branches, from which the most brilliant and gaudy flowers are thrown out, generally of a red, scarlet, purplish or white color. The smaller flowering varieties, such as Epiphyllum truncatum, produce the flowers from the end of their branches only—therein differing from *Cactuphyllum*, a sub-genus.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

SOME GOOD THINGS.

BY ELI G. JONES, M. D.

It is very convenient for the medical man to have a remedy adapted to every case. To obtain this end, I have been at work for several years.

Although I am a graduate of the Allopathic and Eclectic Schools, and was a pupil for a year at the feet of one of Hahnemann's disciples, I can truly say that our vegetable remedies have given me the best results. Now, let me give you a remedy for neuralgia.

℞ Iodide Potassium, Fl. Extract Hyosciamus, *aa* ℥ii. Comp. Syrup of Sarsaparilla, ℥ij, Water—q s. ℥iv. Mix. S. Take a tablespoonful before each meal, and on retiring. This prescription can be relied upon.

PILES.—This method of treatment has always given me good results: even in cases of ten or fifteen years standing:

℞ Neutralizing Cordial, ℥ij, Fl. Extract of Leptandra, ℥jss, Fl. Extract of Phytolacca, ℥j. Mix. S. Teaspoonful three times a day, before meals. The dose should be diminished after we obtain considerable catharsis.

If there is considerable hemorrhage attending each evacuation of the bowels, and the Piles are external, irritable and inflamed, apply equal parts of powdered hemlock bark and golden seal, mixed with stramonium ointment.

Rheumatism.—Occasionally we meet with persons who have rheumatic or wandering pains, shifting from one part of the body to another, particularly old people. I have the following remedy:

℞ Fl. Extract Phytolacca (berries), ℥ij, Fl. Extract Prickly Ash Bark, ℥j, Fl. Extract Leptandra, ℥iij. Mix. S. Teaspoonful three times a day.

Eye Water.—Eclectics have found better remedies in the Materia Medica for a collyrium than nitrate of silver, sugar of lead, morphia and sulphate of zinc. I offer them the following formula:

℞ Tr. Lobelia seeds, Tr. Capsicum, Tr. Myrrh, Tr. Lady's Slipper, Tr. Golden Seal, *aa* ℥j, Tr. Camphor, ℥ss. Mix. Put one teaspoonful with three of milk, and apply to the eye for two days. Then take one teaspoonful to *two* of milk. For eyes, we have found no remedy equal to this. Let us hear from some of our Eclectics in the South and West. Give us some of your *good* things.

Enfield Center, N. H., April, 1874.

Formula for Dysentry.

Dr. Newton.—Dear Sir: Your remedy for diphtheria has not come to hand. We have not had a case of this complaint for a long time. We have been trying several new medicines, as cocaine, chionanthus, and find them excellent.

We have had a wet season. Look out for a hot summer and abundance of malarial disease.

I send you the following formula of my own for dysentery, cholera morbus, cholera infantum, diarrhœa, cholic, etc.

℞ Dioscorea, fluid ext. gtts. v. a xv, Gelsemimum fluid ext. gtts v. a x. Viburnum, Hayden's, Sat. tr., gtts xv. a lx. Mix dose, according to age, to be repeated at each evacuation till relief comes. Then administer some mild aperient like chionanthus, rheum, leptandra or juglandin.

Your journal, the Medical Eclectic, does not come often enough. I want it every week, and am willing to pay for it accordingly.

T. Cummins.

Wenona, Illinois, May 31, 1874.

Wonders of the Gettysburg Spring Water.

After Gettysburg had become famous in American history, as the scene of a battle which decided the event of the civil war, it was also destined to be a resort of the valetudinarians, excursionists and others in pursuit of health and wholesome dissipation. A spring had been discovered, holding in solution mineral and other substances, declared to be in the highest degree salutary and beneficial. In scientific parlance, the water was denominated *Katalysine*, to impart that it was resolving in its qualities, aiding in the breaking up of morbid elements and concretions in the body, preparatory to their elimination as enemies to the vital economy. That its effects are beneficial and healthy, numerous certificates assert, without hesitancy or equivocation. The late Attorney-General Stanberry, of Pennsylvania, the Rev. Doctor Moriarty, and others of equal note and reliability, declare its merits as a health-restoring medicine.

Hon. John Davis, former M. C. and lawyer of the Port of Philadelphia, in writing to a friend, stated that he had been a sufferer from dyspepsia for about forty years. He had been treated by able physicians, and faithfully taken the remedies prescribed for this protean and usually perpetual malady; receiving only temporary relief. He goes on with his description as follows:

"My stomach was continually out of order; I enjoyed neither food nor rest. In the spring of 1868, my nervous system entirely gave way, so that I fell to the floor, and was carried to the bed, where I lay for months; part of the time entirely helpless. There was every indication that the machinery of life was about to run down; and neither my physician, family nor friends expected to see me get up again. I had no expectation whatever of getting well. *. * * * Gettysburg water was recommended, which I commenced taking, more to gratify my son, General W. W. H. Davis, than because of any expected relief. I am now eighty-five years old (1870), and I am physically a better man than I was twenty years ago. I consider this improvement in my health, under the blessing of God, due entirely to the Gettysburg water."

It is also declared that the lithic formations which are the cause of fearful suffering and torture to thousands, yield to the water,

which thus acts as a solvent as well as a diluent. Of these concretions the following explanation will afford an idea: "Under certain physiological, or rather morbid, conditions, it combines with alkalis and forms compounds resembling infinitesimal sand or stony particles. These mingle with the blood, thickening it and destroying its normal and healthful character. As the combination progresses, the overladen circulation relieves itself, by depositing them in some portions of the system in obedience to laws that are wholly occult, the deposit thus made assumes the form of a stony concretion, or become the foundation of chronic diseases, varying in character and symptoms according to the organ part of the vital machinery, which has received the offending substance. If it is the stomach it may be dyspepsia, perhaps in its worst form, as in the case of the Hon. John Davis; if it is in the kidneys, it may be the disease known as gravel or stone, or some other form of kidney disease; if it is in the muscles, nerves or joints, it will be rheumatism, gout or neuralgia. Every different location produces a different set of symptoms, and consequently receives a different designation."

The experiments of Laeman disclose the presence of lithic acid in the secretions of fever patients, which would seem to imply that it was in some way the cause of acute disease, in cases in which its agency had not been before suspected.

The antacid and solvent powers of the Gettysburg Katalysine water, make it invaluable in such disorders. The medicated waters of Vichy, Baden, Bath, Cheltenham, the various sulphur and saline springs of this country, not omitting the Missisquoi, have all been lauded by physicians, for numerous diseases which defy the ordinary skill of the practitioner. If the waters of Gettysburg are equally beneficial, as is seen to be the fact, as they are certainly more palatable, they deserve the careful and candid consideration of the invalid as well as of his friends and adviser. There is no harm in trying, but chance of incalculable benefit.

No less than 28,866 patients have been successfully treated at the Eclectic Medical Dispensary of the City of New York.

T. L. A. Grere, M. D., of Cincinnati, Ohio, has just returned from a visit to Germany. He brought home a large quantity of tinctures prepared from green herbs and roots, and offers them for sale to the medical profession.

Combination of Temperaments.

PHINEAS T. BARNUM, ESQ.

THE well-known American specialist in business—called "showman"—P. T. Barnum, is one of those peculiar combination of temperaments seldom met with. The *sanguine, bilious, encephalo-lymphatic temperaments—a quaternary combination.* The most favorable that can happen in man with reference to the higher order of achievements. The sanguine gives force—bilious, motive and durability of impression—the encephalic, mental apparatus—and the lymphatic equalizes them, or prevents waste by preventing useless motion; or, in other words, it prevents that irritability of the fibrous tissues which so rapidly hastens that metamorphosis which wears out and exhausts the lean persons under this condition, and that species of absence from all animal wants, which the encephalic imparts, it is that men of this class can excel all others in doing without food, sleep and repose. Nothing but sickness or death limits their success. We have no more striking illustration in America, or any other country than in the person whose name stands at the head of this article. His history is so well known, that it is only necessary to say that only a few years since, it was supposed by many that reverses had so completely done their work for him that he was "done for." Now things are changed, and he is the possessor of millions, of course the same persons say, "I told you so!" He is a showman in one sense, and glad may be the lovers of such successful achievements, for no other living man ever produced such. At this time his great Roman Hippodrome and Zoological Institute, costing a million of dollars, is in full operation in this city. In every entertainment given, being twice a day, is to be seen among the actors, *eight hundred men, women and children, and four hundred horses and ponies,* as well as the most costly Zoological collections in the world. None but Barnum could produce this, and nothing but this same combination of human temperament would allow him to be the achiever of such herculean results. While his exertions appear almost confined to this specialty, yet the city of Bridgeport, Conn., in which he resides, owes much of its present importance to his enterprise. Almost every charitable institution of either church or state receives largely from his wealth. Hundreds

of individuals owe their present success to him, and yet in this respect he never lets his left hand know what his right hand doeth.

In a scientific respect Barnum himself is as great a success as his institutions just mentioned, and if there is to be found a single medical man who has been, or still is, a skeptic in the doctrines of human temperaments he should begin and study or reinvestigate them. The daily observations made while looking into this subject in the business calling, and strictly scientific or professional, we are fully convinced that what is now understood is only the beginning of the understanding of this wonderful branch of science.

Every temperament or its combination points out the real forms of disease to what it is subject, distinct from all others—its physical and mental power. To understand and read these is only to comprehend the real work of nature. The practitioner of medicine who does not understand this, certainly makes the probability of success in curing the sick entirely a matter of chance. The same is true of men in business who are not able to read the "face divine." In fact the want of this knowledge dooms thousands of the sick to an untimely death, causes improper marriages, and fill the world with domestic unhappiness, and children to die before they are five years old, or cripples mentally and physically all the days or years they live—the business man want of success or financial ruin.

Eclectic Druggist in Texas.—We learn that James Clavin has established a large drug store at San Antonio, Texas, and will supply Eclectic and Reformed physicians of that region with genuine unmixed Eclectic and Botanic Medicines, Text-Books, periodicals, etc.

Dr. Robert Hamilton had a pleasant time on the 4th instant, at his new place, The Health Institute, Saratoga Springs. A dinner with toasts was had in right patriotic style; after which a handsome ebony cane, gold-headed, was presented to the host. This testimonial, though well-bestowed, is a little premature. Dr. Hamilton is too much of a "live man" to require very soon "a support in his declining years."

Hernia, or Rupture of the Abdominal Walls.

Only an experienced observer would suppose that there were more than a third of the cases that actually exist, of ruptures of the walls of the abdomen, yet the revelations of the late civil war disclosed the fact, to an extent that was apparently alarming. As was asserted on page 88 of No. III., more than half of our population either have hernia already or are predisposed to it by conditions likely to become manifest at a more advanced period of life. Of the male portion, about one-third have some form of rupture already, chiefly the inguinal form. Of the remainder, about one in thirty has umbilical, and one in fifty femoral hernia: the residue being ventral hernia in some form. It has been supposed that the rate of increase in the last two hundred years has been three-fold, or two hundred per cent.

About one-twentieth of the cases of oblique inguinal hernia, it is supposed are congenital. One thirtieth occur during infancy. All cases occurring before the fifth year of life are indirect—not issuing from the internal ring. Of the other kinds, about half are direct, involving the conjoined tendon, and the other half are mediate, issuing from some point in Hesselbach's triangle, between the points indicating direct and indirect inguinal hernia.

Probably no metallic truss can accomplish a cure of rupture. Such an article cannot be worn both day and night; yet it should be to effect a radical cure.

There is a natural tendency, as in all cases of actual disease, under favorable conditions, for the healing of all abrasions, lesions, and thus the obliteration of all serous sacs when disused. Every hernial sac, accordingly, if the contents are kept out of it, will thus be healed in from thirty days to three months. Very young persons of course, experience the healing process much quicker than mature adults. It is indispensible however, that the hernial sac shall be kept constantly empty. A truss for this purpose must not be removed, so as to suffer the bowels to come down. If it cannot be so worn, it will be certain to fail of this object. The Elastic Truss and Supporter, manufactured by the Elastic Truss Company, furnishes the desired agency, which can operate in harmony with the muscles, retaining the rupture with care, neither chafing nor annoying the patient; and with it, hernia can be cured, it is asserted, "with as much ease and certainty as

a broken limb." Cases of more than forty years standing have been successfully treated.

We have had a very difficult case of reducible hernia under treatment for several years, several times it became strangulated and threatened the life of the person, yet by great exertions we were able to reduce it without an operation, and after fecal matter had been vomited twenty-four. The difficulty in this, as it is in a great number of cases of hernia of long standing, the inguinal ring becomes dilated and so changed, that the ordinary amount of pressure with the usual trusses will not hold up or prevent the bowels from pressing down, and thus becoming strangulated; attending all such cases, there is a peculiar irritability of the nerves of not only the cutaneous system, but of all the parts involved in the hernia, so much so that it is almost a matter of impossibility to bear the pressure of any kind of truss, and often the person will take the chances of strangulation rather than submit to the pressure, and in fact we have met with many where no persuasion would induce them to submit, especially in this, the case with the various metallic spring trusses. The use of the Elastic Truss, so fully mentioned in the May number of this Journal, has not only been sufficient to hold the hernia, but has entirely cured the person. This case is sufficient to satisfy us that an Elastic Truss will cure in thousands of cases where the metal-spring truss has failed entirely. The reason why this is the case is, the metal-spring cannot at all times adjust itself to every position of the body, while the Elastic Truss will do so under all circumstances, and will never, if properly applied, produce an amount of pressure that the person cannot bear, and be comfortable.

The Elastic Truss Company of this city are engaged in a specialty, which will not only be profitable to themselves, but will result in relieving more sufferers of hernia than all metalic trusses in the land. We copy the following from a well-known surgeon of this city.

"After the experience of months, patients testify strongly to its *efficacy*, as well as to the *ease* and freedom from inconvenience with which the instrument is worn. With superior advantages, *the Elastic Truss* possesses in a high degree all requisites and qualifications *claimed* for other inventions. I have no hesitation in regarding it as an important means for the relief and cure of hernia."

J. M. CARNOCHAN, M. D.,

"Ex-Health Officer of the Port of New York, Surgeon-in-Chief of New York State Hospital," etc., etc.

THE REVIEW.

PROJECTS OF THE MEDICAL HIERARCHY.

A BILL to create a National Bureau of Health has been introduced into the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Sargent of California. It is to be under the direction of the Department of the Interior, and to consist of a Commissioner and three clerks. Its ostensible purpose is to acquire and diffuse useful information on subjects connected with the public health, and to assist the several States in respect to sanitary and quarantine matters. But in fact it is the offspring of the National Public Health Association, which met in the city of New York last fall—an organization which displayed its animus in the exclusion from its membership of Dr. Verdi, a Homœopathist, and Dr. Bliss, a non-subscriber to the code of ethics, gentlemen holding appointments from President Grant, as members of the Metropolitan Board of Health, in the city of Washington. We accordingly hope and trust that the bill will not pass. The object is the creation of a favored school of physicians. It is time for proscriptive legislation to cease; and to stop granting bounties to old school physicians as such. The Federal Constitution prohibits the establishment of a national religion; and these laws, enacted as so many recognitions of a medical hierarchy, are equally obnoxious, equally infringements of republican liberty.

A bill of somewhat similar tenor was introduced into the Assembly of New York, by Mr. Joseph Blumenthal, of New York City. It proposed to create a State Board of Health, composed of the comptroller, attorney-general and State engineer and surveyor *ex-officio*, and four physicians, "regular graduates of medicine," appointed by the governor. The board was to have control of all matters pertaining to health and disease, and power to require reports from all dispensaries, hospitals, asylums, infirmaries, prisons, schools and places of public resort. The bill was the offspring of the Old School State Medical Society; and its obvious purpose to proscribe Eclectic and Homœopathic physicians was revealed by staunch "Tom Alvord," at whose instance, supported by Messrs. Prince, Alberger and others, the word "regular" was struck out. The spear of Ithuriel thus hit the toad; the friends of the bill now abandoned it to its death; and an overtaxed people rejoiced.

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The society convened at Martin Hall, Albany, January 28th, 1874, in twelfth annual session. Dr. Orin Davis, the president, in the chair.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. Reeves, of Albany. The report of the secretary was read and approved.

The credentials of the Central New York Society, and of applicants, was referred to the Board of Censors.

Dr. D. E. Smith, of Brooklyn, being absent, transmitted an obituary memorial of the late Dr. J. G. Fross, of Syracuse.

The censors reported favorably upon the reorganization of the Central New York Society, and upon the names of Dr. G. Cooper, of Brooklyn, Dr. S. D. Hanchett, of Chittenango, Dr. S. Millington, of Rome, and G. J. Wolff, of New York. The four were elected.

An essay on pneumonia was received from Dr. E. Smith and referred.

Dr. A. Wilder presented the following, which was adopted:

Whereas, the people of the State of New York, and citizens entitled to equal rights before the law, and as such are entitled to impartial consideration in designations for positions of honor, trust and emoluments, and

Whereas, there are several schools of medicine in this state, as there are also various denominations of religious faith equally regular and eligible, and it is against the principles of our government to discriminate against any; therefore,

Resolved: That the Governor of the State is hereby respectfully requested, in exercising the power of appointment vested in him by law, to give the same consideration and favor to physicians of the Eclectic School of Medicine, as is given to physicians of any other school, making fitness and qualifications the primary requirement, without any regard whatever to medical ethics, or the school of medical practice with which a candidate may be identified, to the end that the day of professional bigotry and proscription may be brought to an early termination.

The committee to confer with the trustees of the college at New York, reported by Dr. O. Davis.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. E. B. Foote, of New York, Dr. R. Hamilton, of Saratoga, and Dr. A. Wilder, of

New York, to report upon the feasibility of getting up a memorial volume.

A committee of five, consisting of Drs. B. J. Stow, of Brooklyn, R. P. Crandall, of Greece, M. Hermance, of Brooklyn, Drs. R. A. Gunn and E. B. Foote, of New York, was appointed to report at the next meeting upon the feasibility of having a building in the City of New York for the head-quarters of the society.

Dr. R. S. Newton, of New York, in reporting new remedies, spoke in favorable terms of Pinus Canadensis.

The advisory committee reported that no case of irregularity in advertising had come to their notice during the past year.

The president and secretary were requested to apportion territory not now covered by auxiliary societies, to societies now in existence.

The bills of members were ordered sent by the secretary to the presidents of auxiliary societies for collection, or through collecting officers.

The committee on Eclectic Medical Journals, reported by Dr. J. H. Dye.

A bill of librarian was ordered paid. The annual address was delivered by the president, Dr. Orin Davis, of Attica.

The following resolutions were reported by Dr. A. Wilder.

Resolved: That in the death of John Wesley Johnson, M. D., late president of the National Eclectic Medical Association, and honorary member of this society, we have experienced a loss sad and deplorable, which we had fondly hoped would have been deferred, and now that it has come we feel a reluctance to submit.

Resolved: That we shall cherish his memory as of one of our best friends; that the immortality which we believe him to have inherited will also remain with his name among men; and that we sympathize earnestly with his family in their poignant grief for the withdrawal from life of one who nobly sustained all the relations of father, husband, neighbor and citizen.

These, with the following resolutions, were unanimously adopted.

Resolved: That this society has learned with profound regret of the death of our brother and fellow-laborer, Rollin J. Burton, M. D., and that we take this occasion to signify to his family and friends our deepest sympathy with them in their bereavement.

Resolved: That as a physician, a citizen, a friend and neighbor, Dr. Burton was devoted and exemplary; that he adorned his pro-

fession, and was a most valuable member of society; and that the loss to the public, as well as to the circle in which he moved, is one which will not soon be repaired; time may mitigate the severity of the blow, but will not remove its effects.

SECOND DAY.

The president was requested to communicate his address to the public press.

Two bills for printing audited and allowed.

On motion of Dr. Newton, it was

Resolved: That we are as much as ever convinced of the great and demoralizing evil of intemperance, and that we will use all laudable means to discourage the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage, and that we will not use it in our prescriptions unless imperatively demanded.

Dr. Alex Wilder, of New York presented the following:

Resolved: That the cordial acknowledgements of this society are hereby rendered to his excellency Ulysses S. Grant, President of the United States, for his manly refusal to prostitute the appointing power in behalf of any school or sect of medicine, or in any way consenting to countenance bigotry and proscription, thus adopting the fundamental principle of civil service reform, in the medical department of the public service. (Adopted.)

A committee of seven was appointed to nominate officers.

Dr. J. A. Martin, of Troy, read an essay, entitled, "Currents and Counter-currents in medicine."

On motion, fifteen dollars was paid phonographer.

The committee on nominations submitted a report, and the following officers were unanimously elected.

President—Robert Hamilton, M. D., of Saratoga; Vice-President—Harmon Pease, M. D., of Schenectady.

Recording Secretary—J. Edwin Danelson, M. D., of Little Falls.

Corresponding Secretary—T. L. Harris, M. D., of Cazenovia.

Treasurer—C. T. Greenleaf, M. D., of Brewerton.

BOARD OF CENSORS.

Martin Hermance, M. D., of Brooklyn; Alexander Wilder, M. D., of New York; Daniel A. Chase, M. D., of Cambridge; George Cooper, M. D., of Brooklyn; S. D. Hanchett, M. D., of Chittenango; F. D. Gridley, M. D., of Whitney's Point; Byron Preston, M. D., of Albany; M. M. Fenner, M. D., of Fredonia; George W. King, M. D., of Saratoga; D. H. Foster, M. D., of Scottsburgh.

LIBRARIAN.—Miss Mary Burton, of Albany.

The secretary presented his report.

His total receipts were	$125 00
" Expenditures	97 31
Balance in his hands	$27 69

On motion, it was

Resolved: That in lieu of subscriptions, for extra copies of the annual report of transactions, the president order for the use of the society, not to exceed one thousand copies of the forth-coming volume.*

Dr. R. A. Gunn, was on motion, paid twenty-five dollars for preparing transactions for publication.

Drs. R. Hamilton, A. Wilder, and R. S. Newton were appointed a committee to procure for the society such legislative benefits as may be practicable; and the president, vice-president and secretary were appointed a committee to attend at the annual meeting of the New York State Homœopathic Medical Society, to confer fraternally upon subjects essential for the promotion of liberal legislation, and the impartial administration of laws relating to the practice and practitioners of medicine.

Three dollars were appropriated for copies of the Albany Evening Journal, containing the annual address by the president.

ARTICLE V. of By-Laws, suspended indefinitely by unanimous consent.

Resolved: That the next meeting of the society be considered the annual meeting, and be called on the third Wednesday, the 21st day of October, 1874, to meet in New York City.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Drs. Julius Von Meyer, R. A. Gunn, and Robert S. Newton, of New York City.

The advisory committee appointed by the president consists of Dr. B. J. Stow, of Brooklyn, Dr. J. C. Hurlburt, of Livonia, and Dr. H. L. Grose, of Ballston Spa.

The society then adjourned.

APPOINTMENTS.

Annual Address.—ROBERT HAMILTON, M. D., President.

Essayists.—Drs. H. E. Firth, J. Edwin Danelson, J. S. Newhall, Mrs. Josephine B. Mix, Mrs. H. P. Van Kirk, Miss Lucy W. Harrison, Drs. M. Nivison, S. E. Mortimore, Jules Von Meyer, J. Y. Tuthill, Mrs. Mara W. Brooks.

* Five hundred copies were subsequently ordered.

Special Subjects.—Surgery—R. A. Gunn. *New Remedies*—R. E. Kunze, *Medical Instruction*—Alexander Wilder. *Medical Eclecticism*—R. S. Newton. *Epidemics*—Thomas Robens. *Malarial Diseases*—C. H. Archer, R. V. Pierce. *Diathesis*—Miss Helen A. Goodspeed. *Temperaments*—R. Hamilton. *Clinical Medicine*—N. F. Marsh. *Hygiene*—Geo. W. King, Walter D. Jones. *Pharmacy*—W. R. Hayden. *Specific Medicines*—E. B. Foote, M. M. Fenner. *Homœopathy*—H. Boskowitz. *Relations of the Old and New Schools of Medicine*—J. Edwin Danelson. *What constitutes Liberal Medicine*—Orin Davis. *Hydro-Therapeutics*—Orin Ford. *Treatment without medicine*—N. Bedortha. *Cancer*—S. D. Hanchett. *Variola*—Geo. Cooper. *Vaccination*—A. P. Parsons. *Erysipelas*—Mrs. Maria B. Hayden. *Proper Classification of Disease*—Thos. R. Fraser. *Future of Eclectic Medicine*—Samuel Tuthill, J. A. Martin. *Statistics of Eclectic Medicine*—Harmon Pease, William Jones. *Animal Magnetism and Electricity*—D. E. Smith. *Organic Therapeutics*—J. H. Dye. *Sulphite of Soda in Eruptive Diseases*—Daniel A. Chase. *Scrofula*—H. D. Grose, James Wilson. *Cases in Practice*—Paul W. Allen. *Lithotomy and Lithotrity*—E. S. McClellan. *Fractures*—B. F. Chapman. *Ophthalmology*—O. H. Simons. *Chloroform and Ether*—B. J. Stow, C. T. Greenleaf. *Diseases of the Larynx and Pharynx*—H. S. Firth, A. G. Stillman. *Differential Diagnosis of Renal Diseases*—W. B. Preston. *Best method of studying anatomy during active practice*—Jules Von Meyer. *Medical Jurisprudence*—J. A. & F. C. Hawley. *Eclectic Literature*—R. P. Crandell, S. Roe. *Surgical Diseases*—B. P. Backus, Byron Preston. *Hemorrhoids*—E. Allen, G. E. Lawrence. *Cathaar*—A. J. N. Purdie, C. W. Bates. *Syphilis*—C. L. Harding, J. J. Westcott. *Dyspepsia*—Daniel A. Chase, J. J. Sharp. *Pathology and Post-Mortems*—G. W. Carpenter. *Theoretical and Practical Medicine*—J. Howard. *Inebriety, Pathology and Treatment*—J. C. Hurlburt. *Menonhogia*—D. H. Foster, Jas. Tyler. *Hydrate of Chloral*—C. K. Brown, S. Millington. *Parturition*—S. T. Chauncy, W. H. Hawley. *Scarlatina*—A. D. Brooks, O. L. Southworth. *Croup*—J. A. Rega, W. Bell. *Hysteria*—H. C. Gazley. *Rheumatism*—J. B. Chapman. *Morbid Impulses*—B. M. Genung. *Best method of diagnosing Infantile diseases*—Thos. L. Harris. *Psychological Medicine*—H. E. Firth.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Upon call of the president, a special meeting of the executive

committee convened at Saratoga Springs, on June 10th, 1874, to devise a definite plan of action for auxiliary societies in regard to act passed by New York State, May 11th, 1874.

The following resolutions, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the honorable legislature of the State of New York, passed an act May 11th, 1874, entitled, "An Act to Regulate the Practice of Medicine and Surgery in the State of New York; and

Whereas, by such law, every practitioner of medicine and surgery, except licentiates or graduates of some medical society or chartered school, are required to file with their county-clerk a certificate of the censors of some one of the medical societies of the state; and

Whereas, we judge the spirit of the law to be an effort to raise the standard of medical attainments, as much by including the worthy and proficient, as by excluding the unworthy and deficient; and

Whereas, the Eclectic school of medicine approve as a principle of the widest freedom of legitimate practice; to define this principle, and to promulgate a platform in consonance with this law, it is

Resolved, That specialists as a class, be denied our certificates. It is also

Resolved, That where practitioners have an average knowledge of the science of medicine, and choose to practice one or more branches exclusively, that they be granted a license for such specialty or specialties, providing they are found proficient in the rudiments of medicine, of firm intellect and moral character, according to the examination and judgment of the board of censors of a county, district or state society. It is also

Resolved: That the fee for such license be uniform throughout the state, and the price be fixed at ten dollars.

A uniform license was agreed upon, to be submitted to all the auxiliary societies. Adjourned.

J. EDWIN DANELSON, M. D.,
Secretary State Society.

NATIONAL ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The National Eclectic Medical Association, held their annual meeting in Boston, June the 16th, 17th, 18th, 1874. Of delegates and others, there were members from twelve different states. The meeting was largely attended, and was one of the most active and hard-working at which we ever were present. The entire three days was devoted to medical matters, much of which was of the greatest value to the profession. If all the papers presented and referred to the publishing committee could be printed it would make the most valuable volume published by the association. We will give in the next number an abstract of the proceedings.

REPORT OF AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

THIRTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICTS OF NEW YORK.

The sixth annual meeting of the Eclectic Medical Society, of the 13th and 15th Senate Districts, was held at Saratoga Springs, on Wednesday, June 10th, 1874, at the office of Dr. Hamilton. Society called to order at 11 A. M., R. H. Hamilton, M. D., president, in the chair.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved. The roll of members was called.

Propositions for membership being in order, the following names were taken :

Daniel H. Hanks, South Ballston, C. W. Smith, Amsterdam, Mrs. F. T. Smith, Amsterdam, J. S. Roots, Saratoga Springs.

These propositions were referred to the board of Censors, N. Bedortha, G. W. King, H. Pease.

A letter from J. H. Dye, treasurer, was read and ordered on file.

Recess for an hour. Society called to order at 2 P. M. S. J. Smith, M. D., of Galway, a graduate of the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College, was invited to a seat with the society.

The treasurer of this society was directed to pay the annual dues to the state society.

J. E. Danelson, M. D., secretary of the New York State Eclectic Medical Society being present, submitted by request the report of the action taken by the executive committee of that society, in regard to practitioners of medicine and surgery, other than licentiates or graduates. It denies the certificates of Eclectic societies to specialists as a class, but authorizes the licensing of practitioners of average knowledge, to practice specialties, if found proficient in the rudiments of medicine; the fee for such license to be ten dollars.

The following persons were nominated by the committee appointed for that purpose, for officers for the coming year, namely; President—Harmon Pease, M. D.; Vice-President—C. Lloyd, M. D.; Secretary and Treasurer—H. L. Grose, M. D. They were elected accordingly by ballot.

The following delegates were appointed to the New York State Eclectic Medical Society, meeting in the City of New York, in October, namely: D. H. Hanks, C. Lloyd, B. T. Bedortha.

Doctors R. Hamilton, G. W. King, and C. Lloyd were appointed Censors.

Papers were read by Drs. N. Bedortha, on Typhoid Fever, and H. Pease, on Medical Progress.

These and the memorial of the late Rollin J. Burton, M. D., were transmitted to the secretary of the State Society. Each member of the society was requested to furnish a communication at the next meeting.

The retiring and incoming president delivered addresses, and the society adjourned to meet at Ballston.

THIRTIETH SENATORIAL DISTRICT.

The eighth annual meeting of the Eclectic Medical Society, of the thirtieth senatorial district (Allegany, Livingston, Wyoming and neighboring counties), was held at Avon, June 12th, 1874. The vice-president, C. L. Harding, M. D., occupied the chair. The secretary, Prof. Orin Davis, M. D., read communications from Dr. J. E. Danelson, secretary of the New York State Eclectic Medical Society, in regard to practitioners of 'medicine and surgery, other than graduates and licentiates; also in regard to the publication of the transactions of the state society, which is to be completed by October.

THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA was held in Meadville, Pa. on the 12th day of May, 1874. Alex. Thompson, M. D. was elected president for the coming year; C. H. Yelvington, M. D., of Susquehanna Co., and G. D. Kughler, M. D., of Mercer Co., were elected vice-presidents: J. R. Boreland, M. D., and C. D. Thompson, M. D., of Venango Co. were elected Secretaries. A very interesting session was held, and great enthusiasm prevailed throughout the entire membership in the cause of medical progress. There were three delegates and three alternates appointed to the National Eclectic Medical Association, to be held in Boston, in June, 1874.

In the list of membership of this society, are to be found the names of the following active Eclectic Physicians of this State, in addition to those named above.

Drs. W. E. C. Martin,	L. A. Smith,
J. M. Harding,	Wm. Mason,
H. P. White,	Daniel Archer.

W. H. Cushman.

The Constitution and By-Laws of this society was adopted at their meeting, September, 1873.

All the Eclectic physicians of the State of Pennsylvania are cordially invited to co-operate with this society.

THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D., ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,

EDITORS.

VOL. I.] SEPTEMBER 15, 1874. [No. 5.

"Ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men."—PAUL.

THE CLAIMS OF ECLECTIC COLLEGES.

REFORMED Medicine, to accomplish its work, must have Colleges at which its peculiar doctrines are taught, text-books in which they are distinctively set forth, and organization to maintain its integrity. Intelligent practitioners will perceive this at a glance, and as earnest and conscientious men, will do their part to accomplish the desired end. It is a breach of good fellowship, a lack of fidelity, a morbid or abortive Eclecticism, which will be supine and indifferent. The Eclectic School of Medicine depends upon the members of the societies for its standing and its future; and these in turn are enabled to exist and prosper through the institutions of instruction.

Eclectic Medicine is inculcated truly and truthfully only in Eclectic Medical Colleges. Outside of them it is passed over slightingly; and a candid, accurate and intelligent statement of our peculiar doctrines cannot be had. It is not to be supposed that knowledge, which men have employed a life-time to acquire, will be believed or carefully taught by individuals who have learned of it only at second hand, and with unfavorable prepossession. The graduate of a non-Eclectic College should study the Reformed Practice as a new beginner, or he will hardly become an accomplished Eclectic. "Neither do men put new

wine into old bottles; else the bottles break and the wine runneth out, and *the bottles perish;* but they *put new wine into new bottles,* and both are preserved."

The contributions of Reformed Practitioners to medical knowledge are principally included in their improvements in Surgical practice, their sick-room hygiene and clinical treatment, and the introduction of invaluable remedies into the Materia-Medica, rendering the barbarous methods and medicines of old-time surgery and medicine, inexcusable as well as obsolete. We have made our progress with the law and public opinion against us; whereas other schools have been petted, patronized and subsidized from the public treasury. Yet we are not behind them in the useful knowledge of our vocation, while knowing much that Old School Colleges do not teach. So conscious of this fact are the physicians from those institutions, that they propose now to crush out the Eclectic School by "sitting down upon it," vilifying it and its members privately, but claiming its science as their own.

It is obvious, then, that to maintain Eclectic Medicine, we must stand by each other and support Eclectic Colleges. Genuine, whole-hearted Eclectics will always do this. Our brethren in England, conscious of the necessity have opened a school in London; and the Reformers of the Southern States, from like motive, have established at Macon, in Georgia, "The College of American Medicine and Surgery." God speed them both. There is but one other institution owning our faith east of the Alleghanies. Its claims and deserving are in no wise behind those of the Eclectic School elsewhere. It upholds the standard and has not flagged or budged. It is the principal agency for establishing the status of Eclectic medicine and Eclectic physicians in the Northern Atlantic States. But good offices are not all due on one side. If Reformed practitioners consult their own interest, if they have laudable professional enterprise, and a reasonable degree of conscientiousness, as well as fraternal sympathy for those engaged in the work, they will both sympathize and in their best practical manner co-operate. Indifference in this matter is not innocence. The College was established at the instance of the Eclectic physicians of the State and vicinity; and has carefully moved in its legitimate province. What is true here is true of the sister institutions in the West.

INSANITY—AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM.

IS IT A CEREBRAL DISEASE?—GALL, BELL AND CARPENTER—SIR WILLIAM ELLIS—THE TRUE PHILOSOPHY OF INSANITY—CASES OF GEO. FRANCIS TRAIN, ELLEN GODWIN, AUGUSTE COMTE, AND HORACE GREELEY—THE TEST OF INSANITY—WARNING TO THE EXCITABLE.

BY PROF. J. R. BUCHANAN.

THE recent attempt to determine the sanity or insanity of the murderer Waltz, by a dissection of his brain, has brought into clear view the impenetrable fog which still surrounds this subject and defies the penetration of any light from medical science. Nothing is more common among both professional and non-professional talkers and writers, than the expression of the opinion that Insanity is a *disease of the brain.*

Knowing that the brain is the organ of the mind, it would seem to the average speculator an almost inevitable conclusion that insanity must be a disease of the brain, as it is certainly a departure from a normal condition. Yet this opinion is continually rebutted by facts—by the myriad instances of diseased brains in which there was nothing that could be called insanity; and the very numerous cases in which unmistakable insanity did not show any diseased condition of the brain upon dissection At the same time those cases of insanity in which diseased structure was discovered, although they are numerous, gave no evidence that the insanity was either the cause, or the effect of the disease, since more extensive disease has often been found unconnected with mental derangement.

The very first rational step in this investigation has not been taken by the majority of those who have given us their observations and opinions. How can they have any conception of the effect of disease upon the brain, or of the relation of the brain to insanity, when they know little or nothing of its functions?

What light could the physicians of the year 1400 have thrown upon the philosophy of inflammation without any knowledge of the circulation of the blood, or of its chemical composition and vital changes? All that was written upon such subjects before

the era of Harvey and Hunter was but a waste of time, and it is now known only as the decayed rubbish of medical authorship.

Is it not self-evident that any attempt to understand insanity before ascertaining in what manner the mind is connected with the different portions of the brain, would be even more futile than the attempt to comprehend inflammation before the circulation of the blood had been discovered? Many of those who express opinions on this subject have no definite idea of the distinction between the psychical and physiological regions of the brain—much less have they any clear idea of the manner in which the intelligence, emotions and passions are distributed throughout the encephalon. In fact the more stolid or "conservative" sort of medical men can scarcely determine whether they think chiefly with the fore part or the hind part of the brain; and the doubt is very natural in their cases, for they have such a facility in "advancing backwards," and so little capacity for any forward movement, it is very natural that they should be unable to distintinguish the bow from the stern, when the latter is so often the front and the guide of their locomotion.

Seriously this ignorance of many medical men upon this subject is simply disgraceful, as they do not even understand the simple elementary truths in reference to the brain, which are indicated by its anatomy, and by the comparative development of man and animals. The fault, however, is chargeable rather to the medical schools than to their graduates.

No wonder, then, that medical authorities contradict each other in reference to cerebral disorders and insanity; and the voice of the profession on this subject is not the clear expression of science, but the contradictory clamor of a mob. A long list of authors may be quoted to sustain the proposition that insanity is connected in all cases with some disease of the structure of the brain, and yet many of the most recent writers affirm the opposite. Bell, Ray and Kirkbride deny explicity that insanity implies any discoverable lesion in the brain. Dr. Maudsley says that no degeneration from insanity is to be expected in the brain unless in connection with long-continued disorder. Greisinger denies that in any case, either acute or chronic, we can expect to find any palpable change, and Dr. Hammond admits that the changes which he supposes to occur are often undiscoverable.

The immense labor of the profession on this subject has been so

entirely profitless—has so thoroughly failed to establish any clear principle—that we cannot but wonder at the blind industry which still labors on hopelessly in the dark. The lunatic who exhausts himself in battering against the door of his cell without perceiving that the key is in the lock, with which he might easily open the door and gain his freedom, is a fair illustration of the unreasoning energy with which physicians go on accumulating autopsies, and reasoning about facts which they cannot understand, in the vain hope of seeing without light, when the great master of cerebral anatomy has unlocked the door through which they may pass out into the sunshine.

And yet while the blind lead the blind, what else can be expected? How few of our medical profession have ever seriously attempted the rational study of the brain. How few of the graduates of medical schools have any clear idea of the anatomy of the brain! Is there one in a hundred who knows what are the differences between the brains of man and of animals, or what difference exists between the brain of a herbivorous and that of a carnivorous animal? Is there one in a hundred who can distinguish between the form of brain which gives physiological and muscular power, and the opposite form which indicates the deficiency of the vital forces and renders the individual an unfit subject for life insurance?

Of the physicians educated in the last twenty years, is there one in fifty who has any clear idea of the source of our knowledge of the anatomy and functions of the brain? The great anatomist, Gall, to whom we are indebted for the first rational exposition of the structure of the brain, was guilty of the unpardonable offence of being "wiser than his time," and he has suffered the penalty of progress in being systematically slandered, misrepresented, ignored, and robbed by the narrow-minded and illiberal.

Our most conspicuous text-book of physiology, that of Carpenter, skilfully evades all recognition of Gall. No one would suspect from reading Carpenter that his theory of unconscious cerebration was *borrowed* from Dr. Laycock, for this theory is the most salient piece of *apparent* originality in Carpenter's writings. But his plagiarism from Laycock is a venial offence compared to his injustice to Gall, in giving an exposition of the anatomy of the brain, without any reference to the great anatomist to whom we are

indebted for the fundamental ideas which all anatomists since Gall have necessarily adopted and followed. When the follower, the mere onlooker presents scientific knowledge without acknowledging its source, his obvious purpose is to play oracle on his own authority, instead of the original discoverer—in this case to present Prof. Carpenter as the modern oracle upon the brain, and cast out into oblivion the great anatomist of whom his learned German cotemporaries said that they could scarcely imagine how one man in his lifetime could have discovered so much as was exhibited to them in Gall's private dissections.

The original memoirs of Gall, and the works of his learned follower, Vimont, are still the best works to which the anatomical student can refer for correct knowledge of the great principles of cerebral anatomy, and the comparative development of men and animals. But the reader of Carpenter does not suspect that he is acquiring Gall's fundamental conceptions of cerebral anatomy, or that Gall was anything but the author of certain hypotheses which the progress of science had proved to be untenable.

But what has this to do with the question of insanity? Everything. Many medical writers and anatomists have done justice to Gall as the founder of a true cerebral anatomy, and the teacher of the only rational system of cerebral science ever presented to mankind. But while medical schools neglect this subject and fashionable text-books skilfully mislead their readers, we shall make no progress in reference to insanity, and the labors of physicians on this subject will continue to be as profitless as the struggles of the lunatic against the door of his prison in which he cannot recognize the lock and key.

Gall placed the key in the lock, but Sir Chas. Bell and Prof. Carpenter have done their best to conceal it by *suppressio veri*, and even by *suggestio falsi*, for there is not anywhere in medical literature a more scandalous example of slanderous misrepresentation than the denunciation of Gall by Bell,* which has been placed

* Sir Chas. Bell accused Gall of developing phrenology, without investigating anatomy, or even distinguishing cerebrum and cerebellum. If he had accused Newton of developing astronomy without understanding arithmetic, he would not have made a more conspicuous exhibition of malicious folly. We do not propose to forget the malice of certain English physicians against Gall, until he shall have received full justice. It may shock the sensibilities of some to speak of Bell as a *pretender*, but it is notorious that his pretended discovery of a respiratory system of nerves is now an exploded humbug; and his claims in reference to the motor and sensitive nerves of the spinal cord, were, to a great extent, a fraudulent intrusion upon the just claims of Magendie as has been well shown by Prof. Austin Flint. As to his work upon the anatomy of expression, it contains nothing new of any real value.

on record by the friends of Gall, and will long serve to illustrate the natural hostility between an arrogant pretender like Bell, and an honest, modest and profound genius like Gall.

The discoveries of Gall rendered it possible for the first time in human history to have some rational conception of insanity. When it was known that the mind was not a vague and lawless something, beyond the grasp of science, but was connected in a definite manner with different regions of the brain, every faculty having a portion of the brain appropriated to it, chaos seemed reduced to order, and monomania became intelligible; as it was obvious that the organ of any special faculty or passion might be in an abnormal state, or in an excessive state of activity which would be fatal to correct mental action.

This knowledge undoubtedly became practical, when the visits of Gall and other eminent phrenologists to prisons and asylums demonstrated that the peculiar characteristics of the lunatic and criminal were at once intelligible, when the peculiarities of their brains were understood. Eminent English alienists expressed their obligation to the new phrenology. Sir Wm. Ellis of the Hanwell lunatic asylum, said that as he was living among six hundred lunatics, every day afforded him additional evidence and illustration of the truth and value of phrenological science.

But medical book-makers and critics do not always find it necessary to become acquainted with any practical science like phrenology, if it suits their convenience or prejudices to decide upon its merits in the closet, *a priori*. Hence the seeker of truth on any subject should be careful not to rely upon speculative opinions on any science of a practical character.

The opinions of a speculative* physiologist like Carpenter, upon questions which he has not properly investigated, may be worse than worthless, when they are really deceptive. Andral, Broussais, Ellison, Stokes, Georget, Carmichael, Armstrong, Marsh, Evanson, Watson, Engledue, Mackenzie, Hunter and a host of other eminent men of Great Britain and the continent, whose opinions were derived from observations and not formed in the closet, have recognized Gall's discoveries as the key, not only to insanity, but to all rational conceptions of the mind and body of man.

* The speculative character of Carpenter, as a physiologist, may be seen in the seventh chapter of his Principles of Human Physiology, in which by fallacious reasoning, he attempts to show that a hundred pounds of starch would be the equivalent as food of four hundred pounds of venison.

No one supposes that we can have an intelligible pathology without a physiology and anatomy for its basis—and in like manner, it is impossible to conceive how we can have a rational mental pathology without a physiology of the mind and anatomy of the brain as its basis.

For these discoveries, cerebral anatomy and mental physiology, we are indebted to Gall and his assistant, Spurzheim, and they furnish the only possible basis for a science of insanity. And yet the science of insanity was not matured by Gall, although he laid its solid foundation.

The merit of his great labors is not obscured by this omission. No man in all the history of science and philosophy has ever done so much as Gall for the advancement of human knowledge—no one before him could be said to have *created* a science by his own labors; and that science, too, was the most profound, mysterious and comprehensive of all that have ever occupied the human mind. But it was not to be expected that any human being, living to the three-score and ten of ordinary life, should *perfect* as well as develop an original science.

The discoveries of Gall related to the physiology, rather than the pathology of mind. They established the proposition that insanity was not an affection of mind apart from matter, but was connected with a peculiar condition of the brain, and was influenced by its peculiar development.

The Gallian phrenology, therefore, though it explained the native characteristics of the insane and idiotic, as well as of the sane, did not reveal the real nature of insanity itself. Indeed it left the presumption in the minds of most of its votaries that insanity was a matter of cerebral disease, and might be profitably studied by the scalpel in all cases.

That impression was erroneous, for the access of insanity may be sudden and its departure equally abrupt, forbidding the idea that slow organic changes in the brain are the causes of the changing condition of the mind in passing from sanity to insanity.

The solution of this problem was one of the most interesting results attained by my experiments thirty-two years ago, when the nature of the impressible constitution was ascertained, and it proved to be possible to induce any of the mental conditions which we desired to investigate, and to determine which portion of the brain was concerned in each case.

The subject, however, is too extensive to be properly discussed in the remainder of this brief essay, and I can only indicate very briefly the nature of the discovery, and the satisfactory conception of insanity, which it gives us as a part of that great system of Anthropology, of which Gall's discoveries laid the foundation—a system which I brought before the world thirty-two years since—which has stood the test of criticism and investigation by others during that time, and which, like the original discoveries of Gall, has never failed to receive the support of every practical student of nature.

The fundamental idea of the new system, is that insanity is not a disease, but a mental condition of which man is susceptible, and of which different individuals are susceptible in different degrees.

As a mental condition, it depends, like all other mental conditions upon a particular portion of the brain, the large development of which results in strong manifestation, and the defect of which disqualifies like any other defect, for the display of the faculty or passion. But it is also dependent *proximately*, upon the particular state of the cephatic circulation, upon the action of the vaso-motor nerves, and finally upon the condition of the cerebral substance.

This mode of viewing the subject is rather startling at first to our old modes of thought, but becomes satisfactory when we consider the structure of the entire brain, and the nature of our passions.

The idea of a special organ of insanity is repugnant to our conception of the organs as naturally designed for useful functions, but the difficulty disappears when understood.

That the normal function of every organ is beneficial, may be considered self-evident, for the very word normal implies as much, and of course such a proposition must not be denied.

But evil exists—abounds, in fact; and it must have a cause. The cause lies in the constitution of man; which although not innately wicked, is innately *capable of wickedness* to an indefinite extent. The evil or wickedness arises from excessive or defective development of faculties which, in normal development are altogether admirable. Thus temper or anger, if one has more than the healthy normal amount necessary to spirit and efficiency, becomes the source of furious turbulent crimes; and the love of money, which is essential to the virtue of frugality, becomes in excess the

most heartless avarice. A deficiency of benevolence or justice is as fatal to the moral character as an excess of the selfish and violent passions.

In looking over the brain we find that the higher faculties have a greater tendency to sanity than the lower. Friendship and justice have a very wholesome effect upon the mind, while malice and profligacy tend continually, not only to crime, but to modes of life and thoughts highly favorable to insanity. Temperance and continence are highly favorable to sanity, while the sensual appetites if uncontrolled, are destructive both to body and mind.

We may, therefore, say that the lower elements of human nature (which occupy the lower portions of the brain) have a greater tendency to insanity than the higher elements (which belong to the superior regions of the brain) of which firmness and prudence are especially the elements most opposite in their nature to insanity.

Opposite faculties occupy opposite regions of the brain, and the regions opposite to the organs of prudence and firmness must be the source of the reckless and unstable elements of character which approach most nearly to insanity. Experiments prove this to be strictly true.

The maximum insane tendency is found in that region of the brain in which the most insane impulses are congregated—rage, melancholy, disgust, fear, excitability, impulsiveness, irritability, lust, restlessness—passions or qualities, which are extremely adverse to a sound mind and well-regulated life.

To speak more accurately, there is a fundamental organ for sanity, in the firm prudential region of the brain, and a fundamental organ for insanity in the opposite region or the region of passion and excitability. These organs are easily demonstrated on impressible persons—one in twenty may be made to realize the feelings, and one in fifty may be made to experience their force even to the extent of insanity.

The fundamental nature of sanity (the organ of which lies at the centre of the parietal bone at the point where ossification begins), is a certain firmness and self-control, which resists all internal excitements and promptly recovers from the influence of any violent mental impression, as a healthy eye promptly recovers from the effects of a glaring light. The fundamental quality of insanity is the extreme impressibility of mind which yields

passively to impressions, and is unable to recover. The impression produced by any medicine upon the constitution is proportioned to its medical impressibility, which varies so much that the twentieth part of a grain of morphine will affect some persons as powerfully as half a pint of laudanum will affect others, who have been trained to bear it. Mental impressibility varies still more. One of heroic mould will undergo loss of fortune and character, scorn, reproach, insult, alienation of friends, death of relations and entire isolation, without succumbing to his misfortunes, while another in the midst of prosperity will brood over a single unkind word until he is induced to commit suicide.

The normal function of the insane element is to produce excitability and activity, without which we should be too calm, passionless, and indifferent to the ordinary excitements of life to act with that promptness and vigor which are sometimes requisite.

Insanity is an essential element of human nature, and the majority of mankind display their capacity for insane conduct whenever they are excited or provoked. There are few who cannot refer to clearly insane passages in their own lives—when, under the influence of anger or of sexual passion, they may have acted differently from what their "sober second thought" would approve. Or perhaps in a moment of melancholy and disgust they may have formed unwise resolutions, or stimulated by a spirit of rashness and gambling infatuation they may have wrecked their fortunes in rash ventures.

All experience is full of such illustrations, and nations *en masse* may be as crazy as individuals. The recent war of the northern and southern states, arising from irritation about matters of little importance, in reality less important than the cost of a single day of the war, which an impartial tribunal could have settled if the parties had been willing, was a splendid illustration of national insanity or abnormal mental excitability. The same insanity is still among us, and has more than once brought the city of New York to the verge of anarchy and mob law.

An occasional outbreak of insanity, under the influence of great provocation does not impeach one's reputation for sanity. The law recognizes the slight insanity of rage as a partial excuse for homicide, and society tolerates a great many follies and extravagances when the exciting causes are powerful. But when the

disorderly course continues without an adequate cause—when the extravagance of action and opinion is out of all proportion to the trivial influences in which they originate—it becomes apparent to the community that the mind is in too abnormal a state for the individual to go at large with safety to himself and society.

But why or when the change of insanity (which simply means that the individual is more insane than his neighbors) should be sustained is a matter that can never be clearly defined. A sound discretion would say that whenever the individual is totally unfit for business, unfit for the duties of his family or unfit to roam at large, society should give its protection by treating him as *non compos mentis*, and placing him under care in an asylum.

As a practical result of this discovery, the congenital tendency to insanity may be judged by the development. Heads which are high in firmness and broad across the parietal protuberances (where phrenologists have located cautiousness) are strongly organized to resist insanity. But where cautiousness and firmness are deficient—where there is a deep broad development in front of the lower part of the mastoid process, at the lower angle of the jaw and along the carotid artery—the tendency to insanity is naturally strong, and a life of irregular and violent excitement, intemperance or misfortune, or diseases affecting the pelvic organs will be apt to develop confirmed insanity.

In the famous case of Geo. Francis Train, the court was naturally puzzled. Train's head is a very striking and satisfactory illustration of his character. With a fine intellectual development especially of the perceptive, recollective and imitative faculties he combined a large amount of ambition, vanity and arrogance. A phrenologist spoke of him as being deficient in self-esteem, but erroneously. The organ called self-esteem by Gall and Spurzheim produces a high-toned pride and dignity of character. It was not very large in Mr. Train, nor did he display its power; but self-esteem, in the popular sense of the term, belongs to organs somewhat lower on the occiput which give self-confidence and arrogance, of which he has a large share.

Mr. Train, with strong impulses has but a moderate development in the region of cautiousness, sanity and self-control, and was therefore inclined naturally to run to extremes in everything that interested him, and in the display of his peculiar passions and unbounded ambition.

Still, although his career was not such as any well-balanced man could possibly have engaged in, and although his excessive vanity deluded him, as it has deluded many others whose sanity has not been impugned, it was clear enough that he understood what he was about, and was not dangerous to the community as a free man. His acquittal, therefore, was a necessary result of the sound common-sense of the jury.

In the case of Ellen Godwin, of Louisville, who followed her alleged seducer twenty years, dogging his footsteps in the street, until she was tried on the charge of insanity, it was shown that she had acted as no sane woman ever did before in pursuit of her revenge or monomania; but as she displayed a superior understanding on all other subjects, and could draw up a legal document in as terse and perspicuous a manner as any member of the bar, the jury charitably attributed her insane conduct to the great provocation she claimed to have received, (which was positively denied) and pronounced her of sane mind. Her advocates upon the trial stated that she was convinced that it would be better for her to discontinue her persecution of the gentleman, and that she intended to cease. Since her acquittal she has observed her promise, and although eminent experts pronounced her clearly insane, she seems in a fair way to refute their opinions. The verdict will be sustained by public opinion as it was received with enthusiasm; and it is clear that in all cases of insanity, the real question is not whether the individual acts with entire rationality, which none of us ever do for any great length of time, but whether the welfare of society or his own protection requires his restraint.

This is an important practical conclusion. The nice metaphysical discussions of the exact nature or definition of insanity, which have been in fashion, are entirely unnecessary and delusive, for it is as impossible to define insanity with any accuracy, as to portray the form of a rain-cloud by a verbal definition.

Our decision as to a charge of "*non compos mentis*" is but a conjecture as to the probable future conduct of the individual, by inference from the past, and is often as difficult and obscure a matter, as the question in Wall street, whether to buy or sell a favorite stock.

What, then, is the value of the opinion of the medical expert? It may be a great deal if he is accustomed to watch the dawning

and the progress of insanity, and knows exactly what kind of mental and bodily infirmities are premonitors of serious unsoundness. It may be still more if he knows the difference of the temperaments, and the cerebral developments which are respectively liable to insanity, or fortified against it. I hold that an expert *who thoroughly understands the brain*, can give a very fair prognosis as to the liability of any individual to insanity or monomania, and I would mention the fact that in the month of July, 1872, when Mr. Greeley was in the full tide of an apparently successful progress toward the presidential chair, a physician of New York pronounced to me a positive opinion, when we were discussing the subject, that Mr. Greeley would die with a softened brain and loss of his mental powers; an opinion which I accepted as highly probable, and which was verified much sooner than we expected. The most obvious indication in Mr. Greeley's case, aside from his peculiar head and temperament, was his extreme excitability, which was too much for his tranquillity and self-control. Let all who find in themselves this morbid intensity of feeling, excitability of passion, and tendency to depression, take warning in time that they are indications of mental unsoundness, which they should struggle to overcome, as they would struggle with a deadly enemy; and not embrace or cherish the customary delusion that the passion was justified by the occasion, or the melancholy was but the natural consequence of living in a calamitous and wicked world. All such excuses are flimsy delusions: the world is not able to inflict melancholy upon us, or to put us into an unreasonable passion, so long as we have a sound mind in a sound brain. The sound brain is not liable to great extremes. In reviewing recently the writings of the distinguished French philosopher, Comte, I expressed the opinion that his brain was not altogether sound, and that probably if he had lived ten years longer, the fact would have become apparent to all. In looking afterward at his life, I found that he had experienced a severe attack of insanity in 1826, soon after his marriage.

But this is too large a subject for a periodical, and in the course of the next two years, I expect to be sufficiently advanced in the exposition of Anthropology to undertake an exposition of the philosophy, causes and cure of insanity.

Louisville, Ky., May 21st, 1874.

THE GRADUATE'S FAREWELL.

BY MISS LUCY W. HARRISON, M. D.

Valedictory Address, delivered at the Tenth Commencement of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, held at Cooper Institute, February 3d, 1874.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Graduates:—Selected by the courtesy and partiality of my associates to speak the words of valediction, on an occasion when silence would be more eloquent, I will endeavor, with a suitable brevity to make a due acknowledgment. I am fully conscious of difficulty, in attempt to say but little, and to say that little well.

However great is our exultation and pleasure at this propitious, and we trust auspicious completion of the prescribed course of study, and the academical honors just conferred upon us, these emotions are qualified by the reflection, that the diplomas in our hands are the tokens of impending separation. Surrounded as we have been for so many months, by others engaged in the same pursuits, it has seemed as if each was a participant in the hopes and cares, as well as in the labors, ambitions and successes which have occupied the minds of his fellows. The very atmosphere where we have been associated was always friendly, and we have become habituated to regarding ourselves as a single household. Pleasant have been the hours which we have spent together, and we are grateful for them; let us believe them to be the precursors of future years of hopefulness, usefulness and genuine pleasure. This occasion we regard as a way-mark of our progress; and we trust that the degree just awarded us, will inspire us to new efforts, and fresh zeal in the course which we have chosen.

The ethics and restrictions which the Dark Ages fabricated to confine thought, and shackle enterprise, have been cast aside for the Golden Rule, illuminated and enlivened by golden example. Science has been invoked to point out the way of obedience to the laws of health, and the remedial art has been shown to us, to consist in an intelligent following of the clews which nature has given to find the way of exit from mortal peril. It is a humane skill that we have been taught, to heal

the sick with pure air from the sky, with light from the ether, with sleep and repose, with medicaments to arrest the ravages of fever and inflammation, drawn by subtle chemistry from the plants which the sun warmed and actinized, and the dews of heaven watered and filled with benign potency. We have learned what our fathers did not understand; that the lancet cures no ailment, and that the apartment of the sick is not a chamber for torturing. These are boons to the world from Eclectic Medicine, and it need not be added that they are blessings which have no disguise.

It has been to the honors of this branch of the healing art, that it has not been ungenerous in its ministrations. "*Like the* Holy Being above us who ordained *families* and *gave women* a *place in them*," this school, moving in advance of its rivals, has also welcomed women into its professional household.

This college acknowledges us as brothers and sisters alike, and therefore we are here. We came to illustrate no social problems, to decide no question of personal or intellectual equality, but as the children of a family, to do our part in the work which devolves upon each of us in the domestic arrangements. Every human being has a place to fill and a work to perform, which none other can do for us; and we have come as of right, and not of permission, to learn how to do it well.

The author of the late work, "Sex in Education," says: "Each must justify his existence by becoming a complete development of manhood and womanhood; and each should refuse whatever limits or dwarfs that development. Limitation and abortion of development lead both to weakness and failure."

We are grateful to Eclectics, and especially to the officers of this college, that while other institutions exclude us because of our sex, while insult and ribaldry await us at the hospital clinics which we pay to witness, here in our *alma mater* we have been always received with kindly welcome, more delightful to us than the vaunted courtesy. It was conferred, not as a privilege, but as an act of justice. The first medical college ever established in Europe, that at Salerno, in Italy, so received women many centuries ago, and they were better women for the instruction; for women then taught and practiced medicine, as well as learned it; but here in Republican America it has been the Eclectic College that accepted us in their classes, on the broad catholic

ground of our common humanity, and not as the cloistered inmates of a convent.

In this connection, let me quote the words of the president of the institution: "It devolves upon us of the new time, one and all, to take hold of life as we find it, make of it what best we can, and leave all things better because we have lived. Let each individual do just what he or she is most fit and able to do. Work and food have no sex; women must eat as well as men, and therefore have the same right and necessity to work. Their wants and capacity are the supreme law. What any person is able to do well, that same person, whether man or woman, has a right to do it against the whole world. It is wisest, therefore, to throw off every restriction to their enterprise and industry, and open every department of labor as wide as heaven itself. Nature and instinct will be sufficient to direct every choice and obviate every risk."

In this institution, with this understanding, we have been instructed faithfully and thoroughly; no lesson has been omitted, and no careless or intentional remark has been made to cast disrespect upon us, or to offend our modesty. Our teachers have been kind and considerate to every student, as friends and older brothers, rather than as mentors and taskmakers. They have not spared us in the curriculum of study; they were faithful to their part, and they required of us that we should accomplish ours; but they have made our labors pleasant by the interest which they took in our success; and if we achieve professional eminence in the future, much of the honors will be theirs. To them, and to you, the Board of Trustees of this Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, the representatives and exponents of Reformed Medical Practice, we render our warmest acknowledgments, with our earnest wishes in your success in your present enterprise.

With institutions, as with individuals, character is born of conflict.

And now, classmates, fellow-students no longer, but esteemed friends, I offer what every woman claims as her prerogative —the last word. I mean it to be a cheery one. We have had a pleasant association together here, which will be always fresh and delightful in memory. Perhaps as time rolls it farther back into the past, it will live with us as our "golden age." I am

willing to have it so. But let us be no dreamers, living on retrospects. Certainly it is time for us to lay aside the mattock and the spade that have been used to unearth the dead.

What has been our fore-ground must now become our back-ground. We are to go hence, from school and poring over text-books, to take part in the world-life of our age, and to form new relations and kinships. Let us go bravely, and carry faith with us—faith in ourselves, faith in our fellows, faith in the omnipotence of right. A celebrated Scotch surgeon used to give his students the following maxims to assure success in practice: "Never look surprised at anything." "Never ask the same question twice." "Before stating your opinion of a case on your second visit, ascertain whether your previous directions have been complied with." Observing these will give us an *air of wisdom* if nothing more.

Success can only result from close, persistent application. The repeated blows of the hammer will disintegrate, and break in pieces the flinty granite, or the most tough and fibrous metal. Tenacity of purpose is the key of fortune. However extraordinary has been the success of others, the imitating of their examples will not assure like success to us. We carry our destiny in our own persons. Even though disappointments, and apparent ill-success and misfortune would sometimes discourage us, they will be the foundation and beginning of subsequent prosperity. The horizon is no prison-wall around us, but will always be seen to enlarge and recede before us as we go forward. In our own endeavors lies God's purpose concerning us. Let us be our own counsellors, and true to our own impulses; leaving all care for the future behind, and refusing to agonize for the evils which have not arrived.

Finally, with emotions and sentiments of friendships and gratitude to all with whom we have associated, and with the days' fresh in our minds that we have spent together, hopeful rather than presumptuous of the future, and trusting to have opportunities to give each other the old greetings anew, we bid each other, our instructors, and those who have acted with them, and you, our *alma mater*, as of time we must bid all—good-bye.

CACTUS:

Its Classification, Composition and Therapeutical Application.

BY RICHARD E. KUNZE, M. D.,

(Continued from July No.)

Pereskia Aculeata, or Barbadoes Gooseberry, was named in honor of N. F. Peireskius, a lover of Botany. It bears a fruit about the size of a walnut, having tufts of small leaves on it, and within a whitish mucilaginous pulp. It is found principally in the West Indies. It is much used for grafting other Cacti thereupon, on account of its hardiness, being less liable to rot.

Rhipsalis Salicornoides, or Coral-Cactus, does not resemble a cactean plant at all. It is a curiously-branched, jointed, leafless and prostrate plant inhabiting the East Indies. As its specific name implies, resembling a leafless branch of a willow. It has a very few minute spines on the ends of its delicate branches.

Rhipsalis Pendulus is another variety, with long pendant joints, the size of a pencil, hanging down from the clefts of the rocks. It has very small white flowers, and a whitish fruit, berry-like, appear on the ends of its long stems. This variety inhabits Jamaica and St. Domingo; and in Brazil some are found as parasites on trees. Several varieties of this genus are found in Africa, said to be the only true Cactus found in that part of the world, whereas Cactean plants are represented there by another order, resembling them in having thick fleshy joints, barbed with bristles, and, when wounded, pouring forth a milky fluid, which latter distinction separates the Euphorbiaceæ from Cactaceæ.

Leuchtenbergia Principis is a singular Cactean plant. Few persons viewing it, destitute of flowers, would imagine it to belong to Cacteæ; the mamillæ have rather the appearance of leaves of some aloid plant; while the stem, appearing as if formed of the persistent basis of old leaves, resembles that of some *Cycadeous* plant. The blossoms differ in no respect from those of the Cereus.

Lepismium Myosurus, or Mouse-tail Cactus, Synonyme; Cereus tenuispinus, is a genus composed of very singular plants in habit.

The flowers of this species are dispersed from all sides of its rounded pendulous stems, and the latter are covered with spines.

Many other subgenera have been added to Cactaceæ, which partake of previously described single genera and are known as Anhalonium, Cactuphyllum, Eucereus, Echinocereus, Lepidocereus, Pilocereus, Eumamillaria, Coryphantha, Cylindropuntia, Platopuntia and Stenopuntia.

It now remains to notice the sources from which some of the information contained in this paper so far, has been obtained. Dr. George Thurber, Isaac Buchanan, Esq., Wm. Baker, Esq., and Mr. Henry Schmidt, all of this city. Loudan's Encyclopædia of Plants; Pacific Railroad Survey, Vol. IV.; Mexican Boundary Report, Vol. II.; Agricultural Report, Washington, D. C.; Flora of Africa; Flora Brasiliae Meridionalis; Flore Des Antilles; Flora Peruvianæ et Chilensis; Gray's Botany; Narratives of United States and Mexican Boundary Commission, by J. R. Bartlett, and Dr. Geo. Engelmann, of St. Louis.

Properties of Cereus grandiflorus.

Before taking up this drug therapeutically, we wish to call the attention of the profession to the badly applied use of the nomenclature of Cactus in general. While we claim no share in the proper arrangement of Cactean plants, we nevertheless claim the propriety to point out existing errors regarding the genus Cereus, this being the only kind, which as a remedial agent has attracted the attention of the physician as well as of the pharmacist. While Cactus grandiflorus was a very proper name for the plant known fifty years ago, as the Night-blooming Cereus, or the Queen of the Night, it does not follow that we should ignore the more recent and better arrangements of botanists of our day, and for the practical purpose of avoiding mistakes in procuring this drug, know it as Cereus grandiflorus only. Besides which, there are several varieties of Cactus grandiflorus cultivated by florists, one, a Night-blooming Cactuphyllum, and some five or six species of Night-blooming Cerei,* thereby increasing the difficulty of pro-

* One other variety not before mentioned in this paper, is *Cereus Macdonaldu*, (Hooker) a magnificent species of Cereus from the Honduras, nearly allied to C. grandiflorus and flowering in the night also. The stems are from a quarter to one inch in thickness, are 5 and 6-angled, have short weak spines, and the intermediate space of the spines is concave, giving the deeply ribbed stems a scallopped appearance. It is of a dark-green color. The flower is nine inches in width, having a long

curing the right plant. And the opinion of many florists regarding varieties of Cerei is very vague and cannot be depended upon, unless they make the cultivation of Cactean plants a specialty, very few of them being recognized Botanists.

"Prof. John King in the Eclectic Dispensatory, edition of 1870, says that *Cereus grandiflorus*, (De Candolle) which has five or six not very prominent angles, contains a *milky acrid* juice,* and was used at one time in Mexico, as a popular remedy for various diseases, as irritation of the kidneys and bladder, intermittent fever, difficulty in breathing, cough, etc.

It was introduced to the medical profession by Dr. Scheele, of Germany; but little attention, however, was given to it until Dr. R. Rubini, a Homœopathic physician, of Naples, brought it into especial notice as a specific in heart diseases.

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Night-blooming Cereus diminishes the frequency of the pulse, and increases the renal secretion, and is, therefore, sedative and diuretic. It does not appear to weaken the nervous system in the least. In large doses, it produces gastric irritation, also affects the brain, causing confusion of the mind, hallucination and slight delirium. It is especially useful in diseases of the heart, in which it exerts a very decided action, palliating or removing the symptoms, and frequently giving prompt relief. This influence upon the heart is manifested, whether the disease be functional or organic. In palpitation, angina pectoris, cardiac neuralgia, rheumatism or hypertrophy, valvular disease, etc., it is of much benefit, often giving great relief, even in incurable cases. It has likewise been found serviceable in some cases of dropsy, hemoptysis and tendency to or incipient apoplexy. Its use should be associated with iron in anemic cases, with tonics where great debility exists, with anti-scrofulous agents where there is a scrofulous disposition, etc. It has likewise been found useful in

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flower tube with greenish sepals. The outer rows of petals are a pale yellow, and the innermost petals a pure white, with the anthers projecting fully half an inch beyond the petals. It is fragrant. And then there are the following varieties, several of which we have not had an opportunity yet of examining, viz.: *Cereus Bonplandu*, (Parmet) *C. nycticulus* (Link) *C. Maymardu*, and *C. albisetosus*, are all night-blooming varieties.

* It contains no milky acrid juice at all, but on the contrary, a clear mucilaginous, subacid juice, pleasant to the taste. All plants, yielding when wounded, a milky acrid juice, belong unmistakably to the family of Euphorbiaceæ (some of them very poisonous), although they may otherwise resemble Cactean plants very much in shape.—R. E. K.

cerebral congestion, mental derangements, rheumatism, inflammation of mucous membranes, prostatic disease, irritable bladder, renal congestion, oedematous condition of limbs, dysmenorrhœa, chronic bronchitis, etc. Its value in nervous and organic cardiac diseases is well known, but further investigation is required to prove its usefulness in other maladies referred to above. It appears to be contra-indicated in inflammatory affections during their acute stages."

"Prof. John M. Scudder refers to this article in *Specific Medication*, edition of 1871, as follows: Cactus grandiflorus, or Night-blooming Cereus. The influence of Cactus seems to be wholly exerted on the sympathetic nervous system, and especially upon, and through the cardiac plexus, etc. It is neither stimulant nor sedative, and rather iufluences a regular performance of function. The Cactus is a *specific* in heart disease, in that it gives strength and regularity to the innervation of the organ. Its influence is permanent, in that it influences the waste and nutrition of the organ, increasing its strength. It exerts no influence upon the inflammatory process, and hence is not a remedy for inflammatory disease. Feelings of weight and pressure at the praecordia, difficult breathing, fear of impending danger, etc., are at once removed. Thus, in the majority of cases of *functional* heart disease, it gives prompt relief, and if continued, will effect a cure. In *structural* heart disease, the first use of remedies is to relieve the distressing sensation in the region of the heart, and the unnatural fear of danger which attends them. In the majority of cases the Cactus gives prompt relief. But it will not relieve or cure cases of valvular deficiency, dilatation of the opening of the heart or fatty degeneration."

"Prof. Ad. Lippe in the *Homœopathic Materia Medica*, edition of 1866, gives the Pathogenesis of Cactus grandiflorus as affecting principally the chest, stomach, abdomen, anus, urinary and sexual organs."

"Dr. Wm. L. Breyfogle in his *Epitome of Homœopathic Medicines*, edition of 1872, on Cactus grandiflorus, sums up as follows: *Curative Range*—Sense of constriction in throat, chest, heart, bladder and rectum. Hemorrhages from nose, lungs, stomach and rectum. Chronic diseases of heart. Cyanosis in infants."

"The first provings of Cactus grandiflorus were reported by Dr. Rocco Rubini, of the Hospital de Sainte-Marie de la Cesarea, near Naples, in October, 1864, in *L'art Medical*, Vol. XX."

"In *Hale's New Remedies*, edition of 1867, a homœopathic work of considerable repute, we find that the juice of Cactus grandiflorus is described also as being acrid and milky."* The Pathogenesis of Cactus grandiflorus is given at great length, and we will not take up any more space in reiterating what has been said already, but will close with an extract from the same work, relating to the publication of the first article on Cactus. "Dr. Rocco Rubini, Medical Director of the Homœopathic Hospital of St. Maria de la Cesarea, near Naples, published a pamphlet on Cactus, which was first translated by Dr. Dudgeon, of England, and published in the 22d volume of the British Journal of Homœopathy, 1864, with a clinical note by Dr. J. R. Russel. Dr. Ad. Lippe, Prof. of Materia Medica in the Homœopathic College of Penn., not satisfied with the first translation, subsequently translated another, which was published in pamphlet form in 1865."

Dr. E. H. Millington, of Hancock, N. Y., informs me that he has used Cactus grandiflorus very successfully in all cases of palpitation of the heart, giving it in doses of one drop of the tincture, frequently repeated.

Dr. John H. Fitch, of New Scotland, N. Y., tells me that he has used Cactus grandiflorus quite successfully as a diuretic, and his clinical observations, as well as provings of Cereus grandiflorus, will be embodied in this paper.

Chemical Analysis of Cereus grandiflorus, so far as we had leisure and the ability to continue investigations up to the time of writing this article. We found a large percentage of mucilage (gum), much oxalate of lime, oxalic and tartaric acid in small quanity, lignin, chlorophylle, starch and ashes. In arriving at this result we will subjoin the tests for each.

The entire juice of the stems of Cereus grandiflorus, is a thick, viscid, transparent mucilage, yielding it readily to hot or cold water. Adding alcohol to the filtered infusion of the stems, a white opake substance, gum, is separated, which is not soluble in alcohol, and therefore precipitated. This mucilage renders it a nutritious article of diet, which is demonstrated by other varieties of Cacti, such as serve our Indians for food, whenever a scarcity of other diet compels them to eat it. We find an analogy in the fact of Moors, Negroes and Hottentots, who, when gathering

* We have already disproved this assertion, having full proof to the contrary in the shape of living specimen plants in our possession.—R. E. K.

gum-Arabic, live exclusively on gum during its period of collection.

The amount of oxalate of lime in Cereus grandiflorus, is astonishingly large. It is in the form of crystals throughout the cellular substance, not only visible to the naked eye, but sensible also to the touch, whenever a section is cut from the stem.

In determining the presence of oxalate of lime, we washed out some of this calcareous substance from the green mature stems, and placing it in a test-tube, adding hydrochloric acid to excess, it would dissolve it after heat having been applied, and hold it in solution on cooling. Thus, were it not for the fact of oxalic acid combining with lime in the Cactus, forming an insoluble salt of oxalate of lime (which is soluble only in muriatic and nitric acid), the juice of Cactus would be highly poisonous on account of the large amount of oxalic acid present, and an adequate idea may be had, when it is known that the Peruvian Cactus, Cereus Octangularis and Old Man Cactus, Pilocereus; Synonyme, Cactus senilis, contain 85 per cent. of oxalate of lime. Oxalic acid has such a strong affinity for lime, that whenever the acid and earth are brought together in solution, an insoluble precipitate of oxalate of lime is formed, and hence it is that the proper antidotes in poisoning with oxalic acid, are chalk and magnesia, forming inert oxalates therewith.

The acid reaction of Cereus grandiflorus is easily seen by holding litmus paper to the freshly cut surface of a piece of stem, which will redden litmus instantly. A hot infusion does not give such satisfactory result, because heat drives off the oxalic acid.

Its tincture is only very slightly acid. Oxalic acid is detected in this way. An infusion of this Cereus is placed in a test-tube, lime-water added, which, when oxalic acid is present, will yield a precipitate—insoluble in an excess of the same acid. We made further proofs of the presence of oxalic acid, by causing a white precipitate of oxalate of lime with an infusion of Cereus and chloride of lime, known by the solubility of the precipitate in nitric acid. Also by causing a bluish white precipitate of oxalate of copper, by mixing an infusion of Cereus with sulphate of copper. And lastly, by causing a dense white precipitate of oxalate of silver when adding nitrate of silver to an infusion of Cereus.

Tartaric acid was tested for and found by adding equal parts of lime-water to an infusion of Cereus in a test-tube, causing a

whitish precipitate or cloudiness, which was redissolved by an excess of tartaric acid.

The presence of oxalic and tartaric acid in the juice of Cereus grandiflorus, and probably other varieties, makes it a refrigerant, the same as sorrel, and ought to be useful in scorbutic affections. The acid juice of Cacti in general, is useful as a fomentation in inflammation. Their fruits, when boiled, are given in chest affections. Lignin is found in the woody fibre of the stems of Cereus and ashes, by burning the same. Its ashes we have not yet analyzed.

Chlorophylle is the green coloring substance of the whole plant.

Starch is present in considerable quantity, and can be detected easily by putting a drop of tincture of iodine on the freshly cut surface of a piece of Cereus, when, if starch be present, it will strike a fine blue or violet color immediately, the result of the formation of iodide of starch. The woody portion of the Cereus will strike this color quicker than the cortical or leafy part.

At some future time we will report further progress in the composition of Cereus grandiflorus. The diuretic effect of Cereus is due, no doubt, to the mucilaginous principle, the same as in the marshmallow root, water-melon seed, etc.

(To be concluded in our next.)

"The Stone which the Builders Rejected."

THE debate in the House of Representatives, at Washington, July 6th, upon the amendment relative to the expenses of the Board of Health of the District of Columbia, brought out the fact that the present board has reduced the mortality-rate of Washington city from 22 to 14 per 1,000 per annum, which is a lower death-rate than exists in any other city in the Union.

Two of the members of this board are Drs. Verdi and Bliss, who do not come within the purview of the code of ethics of the American Medical Association (old school), and for that reason were excluded from seats in the Public Health Association, which met in this city last November. "No man might buy or sell save he that had the mark or the name of the beast." But these men, who were thus discredited, have proved their capacity and qualifications superior to those who have been thus stamped of Antichrist.

The Review.

The Gettysburgh Springs.

The proprietors of the "Katalysine Spring" at Gettysburg, are making arrangements for the supplying of the water at different points of the country, as the waters of Vichy, Missisquoi, and of the different Springs at Saratoga, have been already furnished. During the present season, however, this has been difficult. There was an unexpectedly large arrival of visitors and guests to make a Summer sojourn at the place, which created a home demand of such proportions as to interfere seriously with the business of exportation. The Autumn will, however, greatly lessen this exclusive demand, and afford opportunity to provide for bottling and transporting elsewhere.

We have not seen an analysis of the water, and therefore must speak of its beneficial qualities as certified by those who have experienced them. These are too respectable in character, too well known, and have too much reputation at stake to warrant them in lending their names for a meretricious purpose. They assert that painful ailments of many years have been relieved and even cured by them; so that sufferers of almost half a century have attained a degree of health wonderful to themselves as well as to all who knew the circumstances. Attorney-General Stanberry, Rev. Dr. Moriarty, and Hon. John Davis, have given their testimony without qualification, the latter declaring that when his strength had utterly failed, and his life was supposed to be near its end, he was persuaded by his son, a gentleman of high social position, to make use of the Gettysburg water. He adds: "I am this day eighty-five years old, and am physically a better man than I was twenty years ago."

It is claimed with great plausibility that this water is *catalytic* or resolving in its qualities, decomposing the lithic formations and breaking up morbid elements and concretions in the body, thus preparing the way for their elimination. It also frees the system from innumerable other morbid elements, which are the founda-

tion of various diseases, often refractory and yielding reluctantly to treatment. Acting as a solvent, and not merely as a diluent, it changes the character as well as form of the constituents; and so, whether the disorder is dyspeptic, protean as well as hydra-headed; renal, whether calculous or otherwise; rheumatic, neuralgic, or something not so easy to name, define and classify, it is tolerably sure to derive a benefit. The antacid properties of the Katalysine waters constitute an important quality. It has been shown by Laemann that lithic acid has infinitely more to do with fever and acute disease than had been apprehended. An agent to neutralize it as well as to eliminate it from the body is all-important: and fortunate it is for the sufferer as well as for medical science, if the proper solvent and remedy exists here. Chemical analysis will disclose much that is now but dimly apprehended; but it is certain that invalids will find no harm in a fair trial.

The Elastic Truss and Supporter.

Modern surgery, especially in the Eclectic profession, desiderates results which shall be as surely beneficial, without resort to operations. Hence it aspires to arrest gangrene before distinction of tissue has taken place; to anticipate the remedial action of nature, without adopting measures which presume upon no such power of recovery. It has thus brought within the range of successful treatment cases and maladies which were once considered hopeless.

Among those lesions which can be treated effectively, without resort to operations, are the different forms of rupture of the walls of the abdomen. They have the same tendency to heal which pertains to any disease, where the conditions are favorable. The surgeon should, therefore, direct his attention to the maintaining of such conditions. The point to be achieved is the obliteration of the sac, the formation of which occasioned the hernia, and the continuance of which has since maintained it. The healing of this lesion, and whatever abrasions may exist, constitutes a radical cure of the ailment. Upon the hypothesis here propounded, such a cure will occur naturally, if the protruding bowels can be returned to their proper place and kept away from the sac for a

period of suitable length. Young persons recover thus in brief periods; older patients require longer time.

The Truss has accordingly been devised in various forms, to meet these conditions. There have been numerous styles, designed for specific lesions or to promote a special object, all of which have been more or less useful. But the patient, too often, has been compelled to make his truss a part of his wardrobe; in other words, to wear it for life. For a long period a painful and dangerous operation was required, if the impatient sufferer was desirous to terminate this penance. A difficulty with trusses consisted also in the fact that in cases of hernia of long standing, the inguinal ring is apt to be enlarged, so that the truss will not hold up the bowels, which then press down and become strangulated. In such cases, the parts involved become so irritable that the patient will not endure the pressure which the truss affords, but prefer to take the chances of the strangulation.

The Elastic Truss and Supporter, manufactured by the Elastic Truss Company, was devised to obviate such difficulties. It conforms to the shape and movements of the body; operates in harmony with the muscles; prevents the bowels from coming into the sac, and neither chafes nor annoys the patient. The ease and freedom from inconvenience with which it is worn, constitute a great recommendation; and with its use, hernia can be cured with as much certainty as a wound or broken limb. It can be worn by night as well as day, which perfectly accomplishes the disusing of the sac, and furnishes the condition necessary to obliteration and permanent cure. Cases of more than forty years standing have been successfully treated; and the time required varies from one to three months. The truss is as valuable for abdominal weakness, as for rupture, and enjoys popularity wherever it is known.

Veratrum for Delirium Tremens.

The tincture of *Veratrum viride*, given sufficiently often and potent to reduce the pulse to sixty-five beats a minute, and tincture of *Gelseminum sempervirens*, till the system is relaxed, the subsultus overcome, and sleep produced, will relieve delirium tremens where there is no lesion of the brain. The Veratrum overcomes the effects or antidotes the alcoholisation of the blood, and so accomplishes its work.

Reformed Medicine in Georgia.

A FRATERNAL enterprise, "the College of American Medicine and Surgery," has been established and concluded successfully a term of lectures at Macon, Georgia, during the last winter. A convention of leading Eclectics of the South, was also held at that city on the 2d day of March last, for the purpose of organization. We welcome these movements, as auspicious of future benefit. Georgia in the recent civil war afforded an example in respect to Liberal Medicine which other States, North as well as South, might copy with advantage. While elsewhere Eclectics were proscribed and their treatment discarded, even after it had been employed with signal benefit, the State of Georgia gave them their full rights in the army. We are gratified at the reestablishment of an Eclectic College among a people that know the utility of Reformed Practice; and to the journal published by the faculty, *The Archives of American Medicine and Surgery*, we extend a cordial welcome. Its sentiments on True and False Eclecticism are set forth in the following article:

"WHERE AND WHAT ARE WE?

"The position of the Eclectics and Eclecticism of to-day is an anomalous one. There is a branch of so-called Eclectics who are so intimately linked with the old-time enemy of our system, and the mythology of Hahnemann, that it defies the keenest analysis to discover their professional status. They are the medical pharisees who spread wide their phylacteries, and with an assumption and arrogance that well became the persecutors of Jenner and Harvey and the defenders of scientific murder with the lancet and constitutional poisons, stand on the street corners and howl forth their plans of self-righteousness to be heard of men.

"Eclecticism won noble distinction in opposition to the most adverse surroundings in defense of sanitary reform, and battling manfully the abominations of the Old School materia medica. But these pseudo-Eclectics are the infidels who have despoiled and desecrated the grand old temple of eclecticism, defying the eternal enemies of our race—calomel, arsenic, antimony and kindred agents. (Gentlemen, these are our "squirrels" and we propose to see them respectably interred.) The American *people* made Eclecticism, raised it up as a monument of their faith in men who dared to speak the truth, to call calomel and arsenic *poisons*. The American people gave Eclecticism their moral and financial support on this clearly-defined line of distinction between

the old and new practice. The *old* practice had given them premature death, and decrepid old age. The *new* practice proscribed into the poisonous and deadly agents of the old, and the people saw and recognized the improvement, and their faith rested entirely upon this proscriptive feature of Eclecticism.

"Now a race of medical mongrels arise to rob us of our noble birthright, and to desecrate the name of Beach and Jones and Morrow, and a host of kindred heroes, and flaunt the banner of Eclecticism to the sky over an institution which is a burlesque on our name. One branch of this Homœopathico-Eclectico-Allopathic institution brings out our old enemy, arsenic, in manly allopathic dimensions. Another sets it forth in a startling work of medical fiction, *a la* Victor Hugo, attenuated as its theories in everything except the price. This work is "warranted not to run off at the bowels," has two pages of space and margin to one of printed matter, and type suitable to the class of minds it is designed to benefit, and suggests "a dale of mustard for a little mate," and an impoverished brain struggling with arsenic and a cry for copy. If we subscribe to the new faith, or rather faithlessness, shall we abuse ourselves before our Allopathic enemy, who had learned to respect and honor us for our manliness and success, and in the attitude of mendicants change places with them, who but a few years ago, aimed to legalize their former homicidal practice, under the plea of "change of type?"

"Have the poisons we so bitterly condemned, suddenly become innocuous? Or have the constitutions of our patients so changed as to destroy their susceptibility to these deadly powers? One of these propositions *must* be true, or inconsistency or dishonesty must be attributed to these so-called Eclectics. We cannot serve two masters, nor will troubles be diminished in the attempt to serve three.

"We are Allopathic, Homœopathic or Eclectic. The line of demarkation must be made distinct, or we lose our professional sanctity in uncertainty and distrust."

The Eclectic State Medical Society of New Jersey, having applied to the legislature for an act of incorporation, a bill for that purpose was introduced into the Assembly by Mr. Morrow, of Essex. But it was opposed on frivolous pretexts, and defeated because the Old School men were hostile, and certain members found that "there was no money in the bill."

We may expect a repetition of their endeavors another season; and Eclectics may find it expedient, before voting for certain candidates to ascertain their views on these matters. "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea, for the devil has came down unto you, having great wrath because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

The Medical Law of 1874.

LAWS OF NEW YORK—BY AUTHORITY.

[Every law, unless a different time shall be prescribed therein, shall commence and take effect throughout the State, on and not before the twentieth day after the day of its final passage, as certified by the Secretary of State. Sec. 12, title 4, chap. 7, part 1, Revised Statutes.]

CHAP. 436.

AN ACT to regulate the practice of medicine and surgery in the State of New York.

Passed May 11, 1874.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Every practitioner of medicine and surgery in this State, excepting licentiates or graduates of some medical society or chartered school, shall be required, and they are hereby commanded to obtain a certificate from the censors of some one of the several medical societies of this State, either from the county, district or State society: which certificate shall set forth that said censors have found the person to whom it was issued qualified to practice all of the branches of the medical art mentioned in it. And such certificate must be recorded in a book provided and kept for the purpose by the county clerk of each county in the State.

§ 2. The censors of each medical society aforesaid shall notify all practitioners of medicine and surgery of the terms and requirements of this act, and shall request such persons, so notified, to comply with those requirements within thirty days after such notification; and if such persons shall not, within the time specified in the notice, or within such further time as may be allowed by special arrangement with said censors, not exceeding ninety days, comply with the requirements herein made of physicians or surgeons, as the case may be, such persons shall thereafter be subject to all the provisions and penalties prescribed by this act for any violation of the same; and the president of the society making such request shall, and he is hereby required to at once commence the proceedings authorized by this act against such person.

§ 3. It is hereby declared a misdemeanor for any person to practice medicine or surgery in this State, unless authorized so to do by a license or diploma from some chartered school, State board of medical examiners, or medical society, or who shall practice under cover of a medical diploma illegally obtained; and any person found guilty of such a misdemeanor shall, for the first offense, be fined not less than fifty nor more than two hundred dollars. For any subsequent offense, not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment, not less than thirty days, or by both imprisonment and fine; and all such fines shall go into the county treasury of the county bringing such action.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } ss.
Office of the Secretary of State. }

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

DIEDRICH WILLERS, JR.,
Secretary of State.

Red-Rubber Plates Poisonous.

A DENTIST in Albany once assured the writer, while preparing a set of teeth on a plate of red vulcanised India rubber, that the material contained no mercury. It nevertheless produced sore mouth, caused the gums to recede from three other teeth, and compelled their extraction. That dentist may have been dishonest; he may have been ignorant; he was a quack. Very many of that profession are. The fact is that the bright color is produced by red oxide of mercury, no matter what the dentist may say. The mercurial amalgam used in filling is also mischievous and unnecessary. We have witnessed neuralgia, inflamed stomach, mercurial sore throat and mouth, exostosis, which were so occasioned. Often the removal of the plate or the plugging will restore the health.

GURANA IN SICK HEADACHE.—W. T. Branstrup, M. D., Sterling, Ill., says, in the *Eclectic Medical Journal*, June, 1874, if there ever was a remedy that is a specific for a certain condition, Gurana is that for sick headache in every sense of the word. Mr. M. asked me for medicine for his wife, who was and had been suffering excruciatingly with sick headache. I gave him the following: Fld. Ext. Gurana, ℥j. S. One teaspoonful at once; if not better in an hour repeat the dose. In an hour I inquired if she took the second dose. She said it was not needed, as she was well before the time arrived.

National Eclectic Medical Association.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fifth annual meeting of the National Eclectic Medical Association began at Wesleyan Hall, Boston, June 16th, 1874. The President, Dr. C. E. Miles, took the chair, and was addressed by Dr. H. D. Jillson, president of the Eclectic Medical Society of Massachusetts, welcoming the association to the State and its metropolis. President Miles made a short address, in which he paid an appropriate tribute to the memory of ex-President Dr. John W. Johnson. A paper was read by Dr. A. J. Howe, of Ohio, on Surgery and Surgical Diseases. Dr. R. A. Gunn, of New York, delivered the annual address in the evening.

On the second day, Dr. Robert S. Newton, of N. Y., presented the Constitution and Transactions of the Eclectic Medical Society of New Jersey, and moved their acceptance, which was carried.

ESSAYS AND REPORTS.

A paper on the Study of Chemistry in Medical Colleges, by Dr. A. Wilder, of N. Y., insisted upon the importance of a more thorough chemical knowledge, and criticised the low condition of such knowledge among physicians.

Dr. H. D. Garrison, of Chicago, read a paper on Medical Jurisprudence, and urged the importance of accurate knowledge of any subject in regard to which a physician may be pronounced as an expert.

Dr. A. J. Howe, of Cincinnati, presented a paper on Fibrous Tumors of the Uterus, and displayed instruments suitable for operation.

Dr. J. M. Scudder, of Cincinnati, read a paper on the Action of Medicines. He deprecated the use of harsh depleting medicines, and recommended mild remedies and careful regard to hygienic influences in treatment.

Dr. H. G. Newton, of Massachusetts, read a paper on Sanitary Laws.

Dr. H. W. Buxton, of Worcester, presented a paper on Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, showing the great progress made by Eclectics in the treatment of consumption and kidney diseases; many of which, if taken in time, were susceptible of cure.

Dr. I. S. Watts, of Ohio, read a paper on Pepsin, which was thoroughly discussed.

Dr. J. R. Borland presented a paper on Physiology.

The following officers of the Association were elected for the ensuing year by the committee of elections, namely:

President—William M. Ingalls, M. D., Hamilton, Ohio.

Vice-Presidents—L. F. Stoddard, M. D., of Illinois; S. B. Munn, M. D., Waterbury, Conn.; H. D. Jillson, M. D., Fitchburg, Mass.

Recording Secretary—R. A. Gunn, M. D., New York.

Treasurer—Benj. J. Stow, M. D., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary—J. R. Borland, M. D., Franklin, Penn.

On the third day, Dr. R. S. Newton presented an exposition of the treatment of Piles and Fistula. Dr. John Stowe, of Lawrence, Mass., followed, cordially sustaining the methods set forth, and adding remarks upon the secondary Hemorrhage of the Navel in infants.

A paper by Dr. A. Woodward, of Pennsylvania, was presented on Spotted Fever; also, another by Dr. J. R. Borland, upon Petroleum as a remedial agent.

The following committee was appointed to revise the Constitution and By-Laws, and consider the subject of advertising specific medicines, namely—Drs. R. A. Gunn, R. W. Geddes, H. D. Garrison, J. S. Watts, and Stillman.

About one hundred members were in attendance, including several ladies.

The Society will meet at Springfield, Illinois, June 15–17, 1875. Dr. H. D. Garrison, of Chicago, will deliver the annual address.

The Elastic Truss articles are calling out an expression from many of our readers.

Stopped.—The *New York Medical Review* has not been issued for many months.

The Eclectic Medical Journal, of New Jersey, is published by Edward Flishblatt, at Newark, N. J.

Exchanges.—We hope those who exchange with our Journal will be particular in directing the same, as we have failed to secure them regularly.

The Eclectic Medical Society of The State of New York, will hold the annual meeting in this City, on the 21st and 22d days of October, 1874.

New Jersey State Eclectic Medical Society.

A MEETING of physicians was held at the office of Dr. S. P. Taft, Newark, pursuant to call, December 29th, 1873. A resolution was adopted to form an organization by the title of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New Jersey, and the following officers were chosen:—President, Simon P. Taft, M. D.; Vice-President, William Archer, M. D.; Secretary, Edward Fishblatt, M. D.; Treasurer, George Battelson, M. D.

The first annual meeting was held, as before, at No. 28 Fulton Street, Newark, June 12th, 1874.

The following officers were chosen by ballot for the ensuing year:—C. Howard Moore, M. D.; Vice-President, S. S. Lyons M. D.; Secretary, Mark Nivison, M. D., 565 Orange Street, Newark; Treasurer, George Merker, M. D.

The next annual meeting was appointed, at Trenton, May 11th, 1875.

Dr. Fishblatt having announced that he had procured the Methodist Protestant Church for a public meeting, the Society adjourned thither for an evening session. Addresses were delivered to a respectable audience by Prof. R. S. Newton, on Eclectic Conservative Surgery; Rev. J. S. Willis, D. D., on Progress in Medicine and Reforms; and by A. Wilder on Medical Eclecticism.

Dr. Robert S. Newton was reqested to present to the National Association, at its meeting at Boston, a copy of the Constitution and Journal of the Society, and to advocate its admission as an auxiliary body.

THE ELASTIC TRUSS is being fully tested by the profession. S. T. Dodd, M. D., a distinguished practitioner of Wellsburg, W. Va., writes: "During twelve years of active practice in medicine, obstetrics and surgery, it has been my fortune to attend over two hundred cases of Hernia. This of course, caused an acquaintance with very many Trusses and Supporters, of which the Elastic alone can be counted a success, as to comfort, efficiency and radical cure."

THE ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

OF

The Eclectic Medical College of New York City,

FOR 1874–5.

[CHARTERED APRIL, 1856.]

The Autumnal session of 1874, will commence October the 5th. The Spring session of 1875 will commence on the first Tuesday of February, 1875.

FACULTY.

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.,
Professor of Surgery.

JOS. R. BUCHANAN, M. D.,
Professor of Anthropology and Physiological Institutes of Medicine.

JULIUS VON MEYER, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica, Therapeutics and Pharmacy.

WM. ARCHER, M. D.,
Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine.

JAMES M. COMINS, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

S. E. MORTIMORE, M. D.,
Professor of Descriptive Anatomy.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D.,
Professor of Physiology and Pathology.

HERMAN BOSKOWITZ, M. D.,
Professor of Homœopathy.

J. MILTON SANDERS, M. D., LL. D.,
Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

GEORGE BOSKOWITZ, Ph. B.
Assistant on Chemistry.

MARK NIVISON, M. D.,
Demonstrator of Anatomy.

REQUISITES FOR GRADUATION.

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine must present satisfactory evidence that they have attained the age of twenty-one years, and are of good moral character; they must have studied medicine three years with some respectable practitioner, and have attended two full Courses of Lectures in some legally incorporated College; or they must have attended three Courses of Lectures and studied two years, the last of which shall have been attended in this College; or they must have been engaged in

a constant and reputable practice of medicine for four years, and have attended one full Course of Lectures in this College, and must have dissected at least one session.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

FEES.

Fees for a Full Course of Lectures, $100; Matriculation Fee, $5; Demonstrator's Fee, $5; Graduation Fee, $30; Hospital Tickets, $3; for Certificate of Scholarship, for which the holder may attend two or more Courses of Lectures, or until graduation, to be paid in advance, $150; for Certificate of Scholarship, entitling the holder to keep a Student in the College for ten years, $500; Certificate of Scholarship, entitling the holder to keep a Student in the College perpetually, $1,000. Ladies, as usual, have full access to all the facilities of instruction.

The executive officers of each Eclectic State Medical Society are authorized to select a beneficiary student, who may attend lectures at the Eclectic Medical College free of charge for tuition till graduation.

Good board may be had in convenient proximity to the College for six or seven dollars a week. Students arriving in the city, can check their baggage or call at the College, 223 East Twenty-Sixth Street, where they will be assisted in procuring suitable boarding places.

TEXT-BOOKS.

Anatomy—Gray, Wilson. Surgery—Syme by Newton, Erichsen, Gross, Hill, How. Theory and Practice of Medicine—King, Newton, Scudder, Bennett. Materia Medica—Coe, Jones and Scudder, American Dispensatory. Physiology—Bennett, Dalton, Draper, Carpenter, Flint. Obstetrics — King, Ramsbotham, Cazeaux, Tyler Smith. Diseases of Women and Children—Newton and Powell, Scudder. Chemistry—Gregory by Sanders, Brande, Bowman, Miller, Draper. Pharmacy — King, Parish, Proctor. Medical Jurisprudence—Taylor, Beck.

Any further information may be obtained by addressing any member of the Faculty, or Robert S. Newton, M. D., President of the Faculty, 137 West 47th Street, New York City.

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THE MEDICAL ECLECTIC.

ALEXANDER WILDER, M. D., ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.

EDITORS.

VOL. I.] NOVEMBER 15, 1874. [No. 6.

"Count the lots with righteous heed,
And with impartial justice sever them."

ÆSCHYLUS: *Eumenides.*

MEDICAL ECLECTICISM IN NEW YORK.

THE meeting of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, held at the Cooper Union, in October, was significant of important results to Reformed Medicine, both here and throughout the country. The influence was most wholesome, and it will be felt for many years to come. There was a large attendance, showing both a deep interest in the prosperity of Eclecticism, and the purpose to do whatever might be necessary to assure it. Several new auxiliary societies had come into existence, and old ones had become active with renewed life. There was neither a disposition apparent to lower the standard below the point to which the Fathers of the Eclectic School had raised it, under any false pretense of liberality, nor could there be perceived any inclination or tendency to underrate the importance of professional acquirements. The proceedings and the papers which were offered, afforded gratifying evidence of a healthy tone of sentiment, and a real advance in those essentials which constitute progress.

We are the more exultant because of the evidence afforded that in this State Medical Eclecticism appears now to have a sure

foundation, and an enduring superstructure. It is easy to attack, to pull down, to perform the Apollyonic work of destruction, and we have had enough of it in times past; but it requires time, labor and long patience to construct a stable edifice. Repeatedly have the injuries inflicted by professed friends postponed the work; but the darkest day, we trust, has passed. The last gun of the enemy has been spiked. More real progress has been made in our Society during the past year, than ever before in the same length of time. The Society was excellently officered, and the results show for themselves. A little more effort in the same direction will make our position in this State impregnable.

Romans betrayed Rome; Athenians sold their republic; and professed Eclectics are sometimes over-fond of fomenting strife and dissension for unworthy purposes. Henceforth, those who attempt this will work at disadvantage. It will be necessary to go outside the State to carry on warfare against Eclectics in the State. For that we are prepared. The quarrelling propensity is a grovelling one, and neither characterises the lover of science, nor the man who really desires to benefit mankind. Yet each must act out his own nature, even if it is like that of the cur, the wasp or the buzzard. But men having work to do never wisely delay their efforts to stone a barking dog, or heed a shrieking insect. We have never, therefore, begun or promoted a controversy. We support Eclectic Medicine, and not a party.

The good feeling which pervaded the Society was commensurate with the decision of purpose. All measures adopted received a cordial and unanimous vote, or one very nearly so. This is most encouraging as regards the future. Any jealousy or hostility toward New York Eclectics, and especially toward our State organization, is unwarranted and unjustifiable. We trust that it is about ended.

We have but to go on as we have begun. Our cause is just; our principles are correct; our purpose is the well-being of all with whom we have to do. So far as we have been able to interrogate our own motives, they are unselfish. We have desired to wrong no one, but to live up faithfully to the highest light which is afforded us. We are lovers of peace; and, more than that, we wish to be useful to our fellows. That spirit, we trust, is uppermost in our State Society; and in that confidence we desire for it a long career and a glorious one.

CARCINOMA UTERI.

THE report of J. Harry Thompson, M. D., Surgeon-in-Chief of the Columbia Hospital for Women, published some months since, has already been noticed in these pages. It is an invaluable contribution to clinical and operative surgery. The chapter on Cancer is so thorough, that we take the opportunity to copy portions of it for our readers.

CARCINOMA UTERI PREVENTIBLE.

The conclusion to which I have arrived, is that in the large majority of cases, the surgeon can, by judicious treatment, remove the exciting cause of the disease, and thus prevent an attack when the uterus is the organ threatened. It is true it must sometimes be heroic, but not always necessarily so.

I am confident that by a careful study of the pathology of of Carcinoma, with an analysis of the previous condition of patients who suffer from the disease, the conclusion will be reached that cancer rarely, if ever, attacks the uterus *uninvited;* and when all circumstances are considered, the surprise will be that so many women escape its ravages, rather than at the number who fall its victims.

It attacks at the invitation of oft-repeated irritations, congestions, and inflammations, superinduced too often by wilful violation of the plainest physiological laws. It comes not in consequence of a pre-existing hereditary taint, transmitted from mother to daughter. It is not primarily a constitutional disease; and in by far the larger number of cases, it does not destroy life by a general blood-poisoning, but by the exhaustion attendant upon the discharges and continuous pain to which the patient is subjected. We find that its growth is governed by the same laws which regulate every other growth in the body, and instead of searching in the blood for some subtile poison, giving rise to the local manifestation of the disease, we must look for its origin in some local invitation by which the nutrition of the part is perverted.

A diligent examination of the investigations of these, and the careful analysis of a comparatively large number of cases which have come under my own observation, induce me to believe:

First—That cancer is not constitutional in its origin, but the result of a slowly-transpiring interstitial inflammation, dependent upon local irritation.

Second—That there is no specific cancer-cell; the cells formed in the connective-tissue stroma being altered epithelial cells, or the white corpuscles of the blood; their different appearances in different forms of cancer being dependent upon the stage of the disease, and the organ in which it is developed.

Third—That the probability of secondary cancer occurring after the ablation of a primary tumor depends upon the richness of the part in lymphatics and the stage of the disease.

FREQUENCY.

The entire number of deaths from cancer, reported as occurring in England, Ireland and Scotland, from 1851 to 1871, was 124,740; of thsse, 31,816 were males, and 92,924 females; the excess, 61,108 of the females over the males being attributed to cancer of the uterus or mammæ. In proportion to population, the death-rate from cancer in Paris is largely in excess of London. After making every allowance for the difference in the system of registration in the two countries, we shall find the mortality from cancer in the Department of the Seine to be nearly four times greater than it is in England and Wales. In America, I am satisfied that the proportion is very largely in excess of that of Great Britain or France; and that within the last ten years, the numbers afflicted with this disease have increased out of proportion to the increase in the population.

The general law governing disease appears to exercise little influence on cancer. Concentration of population, and imperfect hygienic surroundings do not increase its frequency.

If cancer was the result of a general blood-poisoning, if a pre-existing cachexia was necessary for its development, we should particularly look for an increased number of cases among the lower classes, who inhabit poorly-ventilated houses in unhealthy portions of large cities; as we find all other blood-diseases fearfully increased among that class of the population; but the reverse is the case. Persons of lymphatic temperament are much more prone to this disease than those of sanguine or sanguineo-nervous. Of 167 cases coming under my own observation, 123 were o

lymphatic temperament, and 49 of sanguine or sanguineo-nervous. In this country, the larger number of cases occur between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five.

Menstruation, whether scanty, profuse and painful, postponing, irregular or anticipating, appears to have no special connection with the development of cancer. It has been asserted by many authorities that single women, and those who were sterile were most liable to be attacked. The truth is the direct reverse of this statement. Extraordinary fecundity predisposes to cancer. The tables rather show that it is the result of imperfect or rather perverted nutrition of the part, consequent upon the often-repeated changes in its tissue, which occur during the puerperal state; and that those women who have undergone these changes most frequently are the more liable to its attack.

HEREDITARY INFLUENCE.

Until quite recently, authorities were agreed upon the constitutional origin of cancer, and so general was this opinion received among the profession and laity, that the strongest objections have been raised against marrying into a family where one of its members had died of cancer; it being regarded as almost certain that the disease would be transmitted. Many a woman's life has been made wretched by the constant fear that in herself would be developed eventually the fearful malady from which her mother suffered. On a slender basis rests the whole theory of the hereditary character of cancer.

CAUSES.

The following on causes:—Whatever tends to excite the slow interstitial inflammation of the cervix uteri at the time of life when the tissues are more prone to retrograde than progressive metamorphosis.

Acute inflammation allowed to degenerate into a sub-acute or chronic form.

Repeated parturition, inducing imperfect involution, which terminates in a low grade of inflammation.

Abortion, especially when often repeated, is one of the principal exciting causes. In my judgment, the percentage of deaths from cancer in cities in excess of the rural districts is mainly due to the

habit, among some fashionable women, of procuring continual abortions whenever they find themselves pregnant, not desiring to increase their families, or have their pleasures interrupted by maternal duties.

The older writers confounded the pre-existing state of chronic inflammation and induration of the cervix, with its sequelæ, "cancer." Rindfleisch remarks: "According to my comprehension, the question in hard, glandular carcinoma is about *a slowly-transpiring interstitial inflammation, whose cellular products are converted into epithelial structures, instead of pus or connective tissue.*" The relation of chronic metritis to malignant disease of the uterus has been traced by some observers so directly, that there would scarcely seem to be a doubt that the minor is frequently transformed into the major disease.

TREATMENT.

When the disease is fairly established in the neck of the uterus, or in any external portion of the body, complete removal by some one or other of the following means is the only chance of saving the life of the patient: Excision by the knife or ecraseur; destruction by some powerful caustic, by the actual cautery, or by compression; and the probabilities of success will depend upon the stage of the disease, and the constitution and temperament of the patient.

WESTCHESTER PHYSICIANS ON HOMEOPATHY.

THE trial of Dr. G. J. Fisher, of Sing-Sing, on the complaint of Dr. Wm. P. Woodcock, Jr., for slander, which took place at White Plains, N. Y., in September, 1873, involves several curious views of Medical Ethics as held by Old School physicians of Westchester county. The defendant was charged with having spoken disparagingly of the plaintiff, saying that he had been guilty of irregular practice, treating patients homeopathically; was a quack and immoral; sometimes going a hunting; and keeping a dog. The witnesses that were physicians were more or less partial to Dr. Fisher; and their testimony in regard to homeopathy was often so finely drawn that an intelligent layman, let alone a professional

casuist, would find it hard to detect the exact line on which the ethical hair was split.

Dr. Philander Stewart, of Cortlandt, of the Board of Censors testified that he did not object to the using of homeopathic medicines by any means; that was not "practicing homeopathy." "He may sometimes give homeopathic remedies for the purpose of quieting the minds of his patients, and perhaps he may think that his patient would have confidence in them"—that would be right—but he must not give the patient the impression that he himself believed in them. "If he gave homeopathic remedies, and the patient knew nothing about them, I would not reject him at all; but if he gave his belief in the homeopathic effect of those remedies, and stated that those were the homeopathic remedies, I should say that he could not, according to our rules, belong to our society." "The doctrine of the profession generally is that we may give any remedies we please, and in any dose." "The giving of homeopathic remedies, with the knowledge of the patient, is deemed irregular practice."

Dr. Seth Shove, of Bedford, had invited Dr. Woodcock to become a member of the Westchester County Medical Society, but on representations of Dr. Fisher, had, as censor, voted against him. He testified that the homeopathists had no remedies that were not at the service of the "regular profession;" also, that he was using their remedies, but not as they used them. The difference, he explained, was "that we did not use them as they professed to, and thought that their theories existed without a reasonable foundation." Dr. Shove defined "regular medicine" (refusing very properly the nickname of "allopathists") as "*a system of medicine that addresses itself to the rational comprehension of the human mind, irrespective of any hypothesis, speculative or otherwise.*"

This definition is certainly as "clear as mud." It has no sense in it whatever.

In regard to the other charges, that personal wrong and injury had been intentionally done to the defendant, the evidence appearing conclusive, a verdict was rendered for the plaintiff of $2,500, five per cent allowance.

According to the testimony, it will be seen, the Westchester County Medical Society does not disapprove of the medicines but only of the theories of the homeopathists, and does not look into

a man's theories when he applies for membership; yet rejects him for homeopathic proclivities. He may give the homeopathic medicine to quiet the mind of the patient, provided he has no confidence in it himself; but if the patient knows it to be a homeopathic remedy—a remedy which, nevertheless, Dr. Shove testifies is "at our service,"—then it may not be given.

Comment is superfluous. How any man of common intelligence can respect medical men who treat patients in the way here set forth to be "regular," we cannot see. What is not imbecility is knavery.

HINT TO ECLECTICS.

BY ELI G. JONES, M. D.

There are many obstacles which the young physician has to overcome when first starting out in practice. Poverty is one of the greatest. It cramps his energies, and if he has much opposition, his outlook is discouraging indeed. The people require much of New School physicians. They expect that we shall cure more patients than the old school. Eclectic practitioners obtained a more general popularity in the treatment of diseases that have heretofore baffled the skill of physicians. Now why is this? It is because they use vegetable remedies, which class of remedies were intended by the Creator for the relief of suffering humanity. Look, if you choose, over the Reform medical journals that were published years ago by the fathers of Eclectic medical reform.

Mark the success that crowned their efforts in the practice of medicine wherever they located.

If we of the present period expect to gain such victories as the first Eclectics achieved, we must use such weapons as they used. They discarded mineral poisons and dispensed with vegetable narcotics as much as possible. Now I would ask every Eclectic who reads this article if with the tendency of the present age, to turn back to the prescribed poisons of the Old School, and to dabble with Homeopathy, we can expect to have as good success in practice, or as a distinct Eclectic school of practice as we could with the system of medicine unfolded by Beach, Jones, and Morrow. We can not stand still; we must go backward or forward.

The secret of our success as Eclectic physicians must be in the use of remedies brought into vogue by our school. If we return to the Old School vomit for remedies we shall fail. I would say, therefore, "choose ye whom ye will serve." The Old School expects of her disciples an undivided affection, to have due respect for her boasted antiquity, and to be content with whatever she prescribes, whether dose or doctrine.

To those who seem anxious to carry the beldam, I put the question: "Do you want to go to her, or will you wait coyly till she comes to you? Do not be too eager. One of her own legitimate children, affirms of her: "Our system of medicine, has destroyed more patients than war, pestilence and famine."

Enfield Centre, N. H., June, 1874.

A PLEA FOR HOMEOPATHY.

BY PROF. H. BOSKOWITZ, M. D.

Delivered before the class of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York.

In these days of free inquiry few opinions, however ancient or time-honored, can pass unchallenged. Even precedent, which is the higher law of lawyers, does not escape interrogation from those who seek truth and justice and would realize them in practice. Allopathic medicine, which would entrench itself behind dogmas of infallibility and immaculate conception, and with its bigotry and ethics exclude every rival from fair play everywhere, must come to the bar of judgment, however reluctant, and answer to solemn impeachment.

As a medical practice, that of the Old School is an empiricism, or depending upon chance, a blind following in the road of precedents with little regardto science or any principle of cure. Physicians lacking proper knowledge of the nature of the medicines used, their compounds, or of their effect upon the human system, prescribe them arbitrarily and administer them at hazard. Should the question be asked of them, for example, why they prescribe calomel in such excessive quantities, the reply, if any,

would be, that "it is recommended in the Materia Medica and its use in such cases and quantities was recommended by some celebrated medical authority." If the question was then put to the "celebrated authority," his response would be that he had proven its efficiency by experience and practice.

The next inquiries that suggest themselves are these, namely: "Who was the first patient to whom this so called remedy was administered? To what incident, source or experience is its use to be attributed?"

In all probability the idea originated in some chance suggestion and its administration may have been attended, in some instances, by apparent success. In such cases, you will perceive that to chance is thus entrusted what is held most dear and sacred, your own lives and the lives of your wives and children. The ill-informed allopathic physician prescribes in this manner, blindly following in the footsteps of others who have done likewise. The reason why will have to remain an open question.

But how different with the new doctrine of homeopathy. The founder of this school, the great and immortal Hahnemann, had devoted a series of years to the consideration of this great problem of centuries, to which for a thousand years no rational solution had been found. Here are the questions: What means does science offer us for determining the proper remedies to be used to cure diseases, without producing other diseases by their employment? Of what must the remedies consist to be efficacious in the cure of specific complaints? What is the basis or fundamental principle indicating the precise remedy to be used, and no other, in certain cases?

Hahnemann was conscious that the physicians of the day were proceeding ignorantly. He abandoned the practice of medicine and wrote several papers upon chemistry for "*Crall's Annals*" for 1780, while prosecuting his investigations, and when he was almost despairing of success there came a divine inspiration and "there was light."

The principle which he then perceived, and which he afterward conclusively established, was: That the administration of certain remedies to a person in a sound state of health being productive of symptoms and indications of certain maladies, it follows incontrovertibly that those medicines constitute the only proper

remedies to be used in the treatment of those cases of disease in which the same symptoms manifest themselves. Hahnemann applied this principle in all the ramifications of medical science; and having demonstrated its correctness designated the practice of medicine thus originated from its fundamental law of *similia similibus curantur* by the name HOMEOPATHY, from the Greek words *homoios* and *pathos*.

Nature itself furnishes the everyday evidences of the accuracy of this principle, by the phenomena of latent heat. Persons having been frozen are restored by rubbing with snow, the latent heat in the snow supplying the necessary warmth; and, again, persons suffering from burns and scalds are relieved by the application of heat.

In accordance with this law of *similar cures similar*, Hahnemann carefully tested various poisonous plants, and strictly noted every effect and symptom which they produced upon him, thus furnishing the world with a large catalogue of specific remedies for an infinite number of diseases. Having classified his experiments and their results, he prepared a new system of medical practice and a new *Materia Medica*, totally abolishing the barbarian practices of the Old School, such as cupping, bleeding and leeching. In other words, he put an end to the professional mutilation of the human body.

Now, why do the allopathic physicians, styled by themselves "regular," vilify, proscribe and persecute the homeopathists?

Why do they use all the influence of their organization to exclude us from honorable official positions and other places of trust? The answer is to be found in a comparison of this great republic with the monarchies of Europe. Despots abhor the revolution which gave freedom to the people of this country; and detest the constitutional government which assured the rights of all, forming a glorious contrast with the iniquitous rule imposed by themselves upon their downtrodden subjects.

To-day, homeopathy, having revolutionized and reformed the the practice of medicine, finds itself in an analogous position.

Here we rest our case. Homeopathy leaves nothing to conjecture, but acting on the principle of similar, deals only with facts and with results based upon facts.

CACTUS:

Its Therapeutical Application, Clinical Observations and Provings.

BY RICHARD E. KUNZÉ, M. D.

(Continued from September Number.)

*Clinical Record of Cases treated with Cereus grandiflorus.**

GEORGIANA McB., aged 9 years, came to be treated March 9th, 1869. Suffered from enlargement of the heart. Father died from organic disease of the heart a few years ago. Patient is of the sanguine-bilious temperament, white complexion, dark hair, and of unceasing activity during the day, while at night she would toss about in bed, keeping her mother awake most of the time. She had sharp pains, with throbbing and increased fullness in the cardiac region, especially so after taking unusual exercise, which she persisted in doing until pain constrained further efforts. Pulse 100–110 a minute. ℞ Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus gtts. x.; Aqua ℥iv.; mix and take a tablespoonful every three hours.

Returned March 23d, feeling somewhat better, with less pain in cardiac region and a stronger pulse. ℞ Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus gtts. xx.; Aqua ℥viii.; mix and take the same as before.

Reported progress April 6th, with a still more improved condition of leading symptoms, and had enjoyed better rest at night. ℞ Tinct. Cereus grandif., Aqua, *aa.* ℥i.; mix and take 6 drops every 3 hours; which treatment she continued for some weeks, with all her symptoms greatly ameliorating, until she removed from the neighbourhood, and the case was lost sight of.

By an oversight in quoting references on Cereus grandiflorus, we inadvertently omitted the subjoined article on C. grandiflorus by Dr. A. F. Potter, of Boston, an expounder of Old School Medicine and desiring to give credit to whomsoever it may be due, we copy from the American *Eclectic Medical Review*, April number, Vol, II, 1867 as follows:

Dr. A. F. Potter, of Boston, recommends in the *Medical and Surgical Journal* of that City, the Cereus grandiflorus in affections of the heart. It is a sedative to the nervous and circulatory systems and acts on the kidneys; given in the regular medicinal doses repeated at proper intervals, it is found to diminish the frequency of the pulse and increase the secretion from the urinary organs largely; it is hence of great service in dropsical diseases. In large doses it is irritant to the stomach and has a peculiar affect on the brain, producing mental confusion, hallucination

John F., aged 30 years, unmarried, presented himself July 9th, 1869, suffering from irregular action of heart with palpitation. Driver by occupation; sandy complexion, muscular, and apparently of robust constitution. Complained of having had a bad feeling about the heart, amounting to fullness, a feeling of impending danger, so much so that he imagined being fast approaching dissolution. Had noticed first attack six months ago, getting worse all the while. At times a fluttering feeling about the heart, followed by faintness, from which he would seek to recover by taking stimulants. Pulse, intermittent, 100 a minute. Bowels constipated. ℞ Tinct. Cereus grandif. ℥ii. Sig. 10 drops in water 3 times a day. To regulate bowels, gave him Podophyllin and Leptandrin. Reported to me in ten days afterwards, with a pulse of 80, and feeling better in every other way. Continued treatment; and meeting this patient 18 months thereafter, he stated that he had enjoyed good health ever since.

Miss Mary J., of this city, aged 16 years, came for treatment, October 25th, 1871. Mother had died from heart disease. Could not tell exactly the direct cause of her death. She has suffered from a similar affection of the heart for three years. Complains of sharp pains in cardiac region five or six times a day. Pulse feeble. Auscultation revealed irregularity of heart's action. Has had nausea of stomach once or twice a day regularly for last two years. Appetite good. Bowels regular. Constitution rather delicate. Person not well developed. Amenorrhoea—never menstruated. I prescribed:

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and slight delirium. In cases of an inflammatory nature, with acute symptoms, it is contra-indicated. In chronic cases accompanied with anasarca, and in the condition of the heart, which is generally associated with anæmia and in which the tissue of the organ is enfeebled by defective nutrition, it is indicated in combination with iron, mineral acids and other tonics. An important incidental advantage in these cases, frequently, is its effect in removing the dropsical effusion, whether in the pericardium, the other serous cavities or the general areolar tissue. Dr. Potter has found it to act very favorably in palpitation, either from plethora, anæmia or merely nervious disorder; but the remedy is applicable only to the cases in which the affection has a certain degree of permanency and not at all to those occasional and fugitive attacks which occur under passing excitements. Dr. Potter expresses his belief, that if the profession will test the virtues of the Cactus, few would be willing to dispense with its use. He gave from one to five drops of the Tincture three times a day, gradually increasing if necessary, until unequivocal symptoms of its operations are manifested. It will be seen that Dr. Potter is a live sort of a man, having taken up this drug far in advance of many of the leading Eclectics; at least to judge so from articles devoted to the same subject by Prof. John King in the "*Eclectic Dispensatory*," Edition of 1870 and by Prof. John M. Scudder in "*Specific Medication*," Edition of 1871. R. E. K.

℞ Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus, ℥ii—take ten drops four times a day. For Amenorrhœa, gave Caulophyllum, Mitchella and Helonias.

Nov. 1st. Had no more nausea or vomiting for last three days. Was also taken with a severe attack of epistaxis, recurring slightly the day previous. Gave her:

℞ Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus, ℥iv.—take twenty drops four times a day. Also continue uterine tonics.

Feb. 20th. Had felt pretty well up to present time. Complains again of cardiac pains. Also, renewed attacks of nausea. No menstruation yet. Gave:

℞ Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus, ℥iv—take twenty drops as before, and continue the other treatment.

Feb. 28th. Heart symptoms all gone. No more nausea. Menstruation still absent. Continue same treatment.

March 6th. Increased cardiac pains, but feels well in other respects. No signs of menstruating. Continue Cereus grandiflorus for heart symptoms. For Amenorrhœa, gave her Senecio and Cimicifuga.

March 13th. No more distress in cardiac region, and her health, with the exception that she had not menstruated, first rate. She so continued for several months thereafter, until the case was lost sight of.

In order to test the properties of Cereus grandiflorus effectually, it is self-evident that no other remedies should be given with it, if complications do not present themselves, demanding auxiliary treatment. We have succeeded always in curing palpitation of the heart with it, when not associated with dyspepsia. Dr. M. M. Fenner, of Fredonia, N. Y. had used it in irritation of the cardiac nerves, as long ago as 1866.*

Proving of Cereus Grandiflorus, Synonyme, Cactus grandiflorus, or Night-Blooming Cereus, by John H. Fitch, M. D., of New Scotland, N. Y.

Prover of the bilious-encephalic temperament, age 36, unmarried and in not over-robust health. Commenced proving July 29th, 1873, at 8 o'clock p. m.; took 7 minims Tinct. Cereus grandif. Immediately felt an accumulation of mucus in the throat, which was expectorated. In about a quarter of an hour, sensation of having swallowed something unpleasant. About 9 p. m., for some

* See the late American *Eclectic Medical Review*, Vol. III., page 111, Sept. 1867.

minutes a soapy taste in the mouth. For a moment, just before going to my room to retire, a slight drawing sensation in the region of the heart. On retiring to my room, felt some unsteadiness of gait, almost amounting to staggering, a reeling sensation. After retiring, and before going to sleep, a drawing pain for 10 or 15 minutes in the left axilla and neighboring portion of the chest anteriorly affecting the nerves. Slept well.

July 30th. Awoke, feeling refreshed; in fact better than usual. At breakfast, appetite better than usual. No symptoms until about 9 o'clock; sensation of a slimy weedy taste was then experienced, not so distinctly soapy as last night. Sensation of something disagreeable at the stomach. 9:45 a. m., took 8 minims Tinct. Cereus grandif. No symptoms observed. 12 o'clock, m., took 12 minims tinct. Cereus grandif. Had dinner immediately thereafter. 2:15 p. m., took 18 minims Tinct. C. grandif. No very marked symptoms during the rest of the day, except that in the evening the muscles did not accurately obey the will, whether owing to defective vision or other causes. Had noticeable ill luck in performing accurately what I undertook in anything requiring precision, either on account of perfect sight or execution. Played a game of croquet very badly. In the evening a weedy slimy taste. Decided repugnance to take any more medicine. At night, sensation as if the brain was attached to the skull, grown fast. For a moment, pain in the nerves, running from the left axilla to the pectoral region adjoining.

July 31st. Called up on professional business at 6 a. m. Had with difficulty a hard stool; afterwards a discharge of fluid blood from the anus, which continued to drop a moment or two. 12:30 p. m., dinner. 12:45, took 20 minims Tinct. Cereus grandif. No symptoms during afternoon.

Just before retiring, slight priapismal symptoms. On retiring, felt some heaviness and pain, not severe however, affecting the posterior region of the brain, increased by lying on the back with the head touching the pillow. Instantly relieved by lying on the side, so that occipital portion of the skull did not come in contact with anything hard or otherwise.

Aug. 1st. Awoke, feeling splendidly. Took 12 minims Tinct. Cereus grandif., at about 7 a. m. Ate breakfast at about 10:30 a. m. Stool followed by blood from piles. Was affected with impulses to do something facetious, which was repelled. Took

some exercise, felt at times pressure in the occiput, not severe, and relieved by quick exercise or mental activity. Disposition to do deliberately whatever was undertaken. Impulses to do something bordering on the grotesque. Felt a considerable degree of difficulty in fixing upon anything settled or fixed in what I was pursuing; when conclusions were arrived at, however, they were to the mind quite satisfactory. Took 12 minims Tinct. Cereus grandif. at 12:20 p. m., and half an hour later took 5 minims more. No symptoms. 4 p. m., took 195 drops Tinct. Cereus grandif. Passed immediately about half a pint of urine, having the odor of freshly-drawn green tea. For the rest of the day, felt decided impulses to swallow large and unwholesome potions of medicine. Towards evening, priapisms. Feeling of semi-remorse at having done something wrong. Feeling of having done violence to myself. Retired in good season. Felt rather drowsy. Stretched myself on the bed; was soon asleep.

Aug. 2d. In the morning, found myself lying with my clothes on. At about daylight, undressed myself and went asleep. Had an erotic dream, with emission of semen. Awoke and dressed myself. Attended to my business as usual.

Aug. 3d. Was called up early to visit a patient 8 miles away. Felt well; no unusual symptoms. At about 12 m. a copious seminal emission, after strong sexual desire. Was out visiting my patients the most of the day. Slept well every night during the whole time of the proving. Appetite also was good, better than usual. I noticed a tendency to congestion to the urino-genital system early in the proving.

A redness at the orifice of the urethra. Also, in one or two instances, strong sexual desire with priapisms. No heart-symptoms were felt during the entire proving. During the early part of this proving, felt a tendency to constipation, with hard stools and bleeding piles; the bleeding after stools. After the second or third day, this passed into a more loose condition of the bowels, mushy stools, and felt no more of the piles. On the third day, a soreness with distension of the abdomen.

I do not know why I felt no heart-symptoms,* except, that I had felt for a few days a short interval, just preceding the partial

* I remember that before commencing the proving, I experienced, for a short time this symptom, "pain at the heart, relieved by deep inspiration." If the action of the drug was expended or absorbed in my system curatively, then the theory i explained.

proving, a constant feeling of weight over the region of the heart, relieved by a deep inspiration, and returning the moment the chest was unexpanded. If the drug was curative to this symptom, possibly the circumstance that no heart-symptoms were noticed, is accounted for. The Tincture of Cactus which I used in this proving, had been obtained from Dr. H. M. Paine, who has been supplying Homeopathic remedies to members of that faith and practice in the vicinity of Albany.

The following cases in practice were treated by John H. Fitch, M. D., during the summer of 1874.

Case of Hæmorrhoids: Mrs. A. McM., had suffered from very painful and swollen hæmorrhoids since her recent confinement. Says she has always been thus afflicted after each confinement. On examination, find much swelling and œdema. Cannot bear to be touched. Local applications of various kinds have been used in vain, as also internal treatment judged to be applicable to the case. Gave Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus, sixth potency, with very prompt and happy effect in relieving the pain and objective symptoms.

Case II. Renal Calculi: Mrs. P., age 67, has suffered about three days from bilious vomiting, and renal colic, caused by the passage of uric acid from the kidneys, or more especially the left kidney, as this is the side on which she experienced the severe urgent pain, and also the course of the ureter to the bladder on the same side. The urinary secretion was suppressed, three days after which there was some relief of the vomiting; but experiences pain. Used hot applications, which gave some relief when kept constantly in contact with the seat of the pain.

On the fourth day, or night of the third, passage of urine loaded with blood, and a large quantity of uric acid crystals reddening the floor of the vessel, and feeling like a coating of fine sand, when the finger was passed upon the sediment. Pain still complained of. Gave Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus five drops every hour or two. In two or three days the patient was entirely relieved.

The following is a case of much interest, on account of the variety of treatment previously used—pretty constantly with no very decided results, and this marked noticeable effect perceived after taking the Cereus grandiflorus.

Case III. Mrs. E. A. F.; of the bilious temperament, has suffered for several years with deficiency in the urinary secretion, accompanied with pains in the lower limbs (neuralgic); cold feet and œdema of the lower limbs, accompanied at intervals, with a painful feeling of distension; with at times a very considerable enlargement of the abdomen. Has been indefatigable in her efforts for relief through the channels of the various schools of medicine; although it must be admitted, she has been a little too impatient to see results very soon after taking the medicine. Diuretics would temporarily relieve. Tonics, except the mildest would not be borne, and cathartics would occasion the same amount of loss by debility; thus compensated for the gain by relieving the system of retained excreta. Careful examination showed no organic change or affection of the kidney. Gave three-drop doses of Tinct. Cereus grandiflorus, with steady and apparently permanent relief. The patient is still taking the medicine, and shows no diminution in the improvement first noticed. The Tincture used I had obtained for trial from Dr. R. E. Kunzé, of New York.

PROPERTIES OF CEREUS BONPLANDÜ (PARMET).

This variety of Night-blooming Cereus, which is one of the hardiest under cultivation, is quite a distinct variety, in that its stems are generally square, less frequently 5-angled and but slightly ribbed. A strong grower; and less liable to rot.

This Night-blooming Cereus, which we were the first to introduce to the profession as a remedial agent of great merit, was brought to our notice while establishing the identity of the previous species. It stands unrivalled in the influence it exerts in functional as well as organic disease of the heart. The irregular pulse is readily controlled by this drug, as well as palpitation, and that dreadful feeling of impending danger we so often meet with in angina pectoris and excited action of the heart.

In its curative range it covers a wide field, and from observations made by Dr. John H. Fitch, who so kindly made provings upon himself, since we took it in hand and had experimented with it successfully in angina pectoris, it has been substantiated beyond a doubt, that it is a curative agent of great merit not only in diseases of the heart, but also in rheumatic affections of the muscles and articulations. In some cases under the treatment of Dr. Fitch—

one in particular being organic stenosis of the left heart, with a nearly useless condition of aortic valves—it gave marked relief by keeping the patient comfortable while taking the drug. Dr. S. J. Birch, of Albany, informs me that he had succeeded in curing a case of muscular rheumatism with Cereus Bonplandü alone, which the alkaline treatment would not even relieve.

The effect medicinally of Cereus Bonplandü seems to be first and principally on the nervous system. The brain and cerebro-spinal axis are brought under its influence readily; and particularly so the cardiac nerves, and nerves distributed to the respiratory system. These and morbid effects pertaining to the digestive apparatus, as well as the other secretory and eliminating organs, as the kidneys, skin, etc., are due to its effect morbidly on the great sympathetic. From the proving made by Dr. Fitch, this drug is known to possess active diuretic properties and to be valuable in dropsical effusions. Diminishing the frequency of the pulse in nervous disorders, and changing the intermittent character of the same, entitles it to rank as a nerve-sedative. We prepare a saturated tincture, made of the mature stems, without any flowers, and let it macerate four weeks.

In physical properties it resembles the Cereus grandiflorus very much, and we only regret not being able to give the chemical analysis in this paper simultaneously with the proving made by Dr. Fitch.

In two cases of Angina pectoris, uncomplicated with ossification of the coronary arteries, we have used it with marked relief and present the following clinical record:

Mr. George R. W. of Ridgewood, L. I. called on me for treatment July the 8th, 1872, suffering from Angina pectoris. Age, twenty-three, of encephalo-bilious temperament. Had been more or less troubled with palpitation of the heart since ten years of age, and of delicate health always. After retiring for the night, palpitation increased with a gurgling sound at the apex and base of the heart, resembling gas and water passing to and fro. For years afterward any severe exercise would bring on palpitation. During winter he would be free from such attacks for two or three months at a time, but in the summer for not more than two or three days. He was a carpenter by trade, and had been married two years and a half. The first attack of angina occurred five weeks ago and lasted three days. On the first day the par-

oxysm came on every hour; the second day every hour and a half; and on the third day only three or four times. Has had no more palpitation at night since that time, and slept well. On the 29th of June had been overcome by the heat and been very despondent ever since. Had severe pain in the cardiac region; a dreadful feeling of impending danger constantly; and complained also of sharp pains in the right pleura. We gave him first some Asclepias tuberosa which overcame the pleuritic symptoms in three days. He was then put on the following: ℞ Tinct. Cereus Bonplandü ℥ii

Sig: take twenty drops three times a day.

He took it without any water and stated that it went all through his body; diffusing itself like electricity, leaving a tiresome feeling in the bones. After the first dose, had not experienced another attack of Angina pectoris, or palpitation either. Reported again July 20th, feeling entirely relieved of all unpleasant symptoms. To prevent a relapse of the same, gave him;

℞ Tinct. Cereus Bonplandü ℥ii

Sig: take ten drops three times a day.

Had not experienced any further difficulty in ten months thereafter. He stated that his mother had been affected with rheumatism of the heart, since she had been married. An uncle of his mother had died of heart disease; and her own brother died very suddenly in bed from the same cause. Her father died of Palsy. The medicine in this case acted like a charm, and nothing else was used, excepting Asclepias tuberosa at the beginning. The heart-symptoms were so strongly marked and the action of this drug equal to the emergency, that in our mind there is no doubt of its being a true nerve-sedative.

Mr. Alfred C. R. of this City presented himself for treatment, December 29th, 1872. Age thirty-eight; of the sanguine-encephalo-bilious temperament, and a cutter by trade. He was suffering from angina pectoris, having had two attacks in a month. He used ardent spirits moderately and lager beer very regularly with his meals—never to excess. The first attack of angina pectoris happened in church four weeks previously and lasted ten minutes, almost resulting in syncope. It commenced with a feeling of impending danger, followed by intense excitement, a difficult respiration, death-like countenance, and the heart seemingly tightened or squeezed. Also a choking sensation in the

præcordial region. After the attack more or less apprehension all the time, even while at work. Nights restless and uneasy—afraid to go to sleep. The second attack occurred the evening previous while at supper; for which he had taken some Compound Spirits of Lavender, followed by temporary relief. He became very nervous, frightened, losing all control over himself and passed an apprehensive night. On auscultation found the heart to labor excitedly, yet without any adventitious sound. The pulse was intermittent, full and hard in its rhythm, 100 beats per minute. We prescribed:

℞ Tinct. Cereus Bonplandü ℥iv.

Sig: take twenty drops three times a day.

Immediately after taking it, felt a warming, pleasant sensation, with a glow of heat to the surface, and followed by speedy relief. The next day his pulse fell to 80 beats per minute, soft, full and regular. Continued to take all of the medicine in the same way, while there seemed to be no urgent need for any more after the third day of treatment. Has not been afflicted with a similar attack since, enjoying as good health as ever.

The next case is one of such unusual interest, that we cannot refrain from mentioning it in our article on the curative powers of Cereus Bonplandü. A piece of the same plant, formerly owned by Mr. Wm. Baker of this city, and now in possession of the writer, having been given to Dr. R. L. Newbery, Surgeon-Dentist of this city, this gentleman prepared a tincture from it, and obtained the following result, which we are permitted to refer to through the kindness of Dr. Newbery. Prof. Thomas C. Upham, holding at the time the Chair of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Bowdoin College of Brunswick, Maine, put himself under the treatment of Dr. Newbery for blindness; having come on to New York for the special purpose of having the services of the Doctor, four years ago this fall. Prof. Upham, then in his eightieth year, and of the nervous temperament, gave the history of his case substantially as follows: A day or two previous he was taken in the middle of the night with pain and a gone feeling in his eyes. Told his wife that he believed himself to be blind; got a light and found himself nearly blind. In the morning could only see out of the left eye. Transparent part of both eyes next morning partially opaque and slightly yellow. Corners of both eyes blood-shot. Could bear very strong light. Could not distinguish eight-

inch black letters on white ground at fifteen inches distance from eyes. Had always worn near-sighted spectacles. Had slight chronic redness of the edges of eyelids—tarsal cartilages—for which latter the Doctor gave him Rumex crispus, fourth attenuation. He was taken before Prof. Agnew of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital in East 34th Street, who pronounced it paralysis of the retina, and predicted that he would be blind forever. On the second day after arrival, the eye was more transparent. Constipated habitually, for which gave Opium in the evening and Nux in the morning of the second day. Relieved of constipation on third day. Gave him third dilution of Tinct. Cactus (variety Cereus Bonplandü) in one-drop doses on the third day, three times daily. Continued treatment with C. Bonplandu for three days. On the 6th day of treatment could see large objects 24 inches distant. For constipation gave Opium and Nux again. In four days returned, could see objects 36 inches distant. Bowels all right, and felt in good state of health. Continued same treatment with C. Bonplandü for the next two weeks, when he returned, saying that he was quite well and could see as well as ever. Needed no more medicine. On last call could see and criticise pictures on opposite wall, fifteen feet distant. He continued in good health for one whole year afterward, when he died.

606 *Third Avenue, New York, Oct.* 28*th*, 1874.

ANONYMOUS WRITERS.

A Western journal says with great gravity and truth: "A person who assumes a superabundance of morality and decency, and writes a most scurrilous letter to a public journal over the signature of 'Justice,' acts the part of a common cowardly blackgaurd, under the cloak of virture." The writer thinks that "editors should take pains to discover the authors of such letters, and expose them to the public." We guess not. So long as waste-baskets exist, such libels are easily disposed of, and a journalist must be greatly green in his calling who does not at once discover that such is their fittest receptacle.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

The Review.

A Legislative Peril Ahead.

A year ago, Dr. W. M. Ingalls, now President of the National Eclectic Medical Association, made this declaration: "The Committee on Education appointed by the American Medical Association at its meeting in Philadelphia, about one year since, recommended that 'an appeal be addressed to the various State authorities, advocating that no more charters be granted to Medical Colleges which do not *agree to adopt the plan of teaching which the Association shall hereafter demand.*' Now the creators of a great central body to influence legislation, and control education, membership, standing in the profession, etc., entertained this grand project in the foundation of the American Medical Association. The design originally was to establish dogmatic rules, and so influence legislation as to make it criminal to violate them. If the scheme had succeeded—and THE IDEA IS NOT YET ABANDONED—we could not practice, nor meet in convention, except by permission of that Great Central Body or its Executive Committee."

There is a suggestion in this to which Eclectics will do well to take heed. It is proposed to establish a National and State Boards of Health, to be composed of none but Old School physicians, whose control shall be supreme over all sanitary matters, with more or less power to interfere with Homeopathists and Eclectics. Bills for this purpose were defeated at Washington and Albany at the late sessions of Congress and the legislature. But they will be introduced again. Let care be taken that representatives shall be nominated opposed to Medical Proscription. There exists in more ways than one, a conspiracy against individual liberty in this country; let us protect ourselves against Medical Despotism, first as well as last.

Abortion by "Regular Physicians."

The recent demonstrations against the practice of abortion by irregular practitioners, it now seems, have not been made in behalf of morality, but because the culprits had intruded upon the province of the "family physicians." We had more than suspected as much, long ago. It now stands confessed. A few months ago, Dr. Thaddeus Reamey, Professor of Obstetrics in the Ohio Medical College, belonging to the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, also to a prominent church in that city, made the following assertion touching his professional brethren:

"There are members of the *regular* profession in the city, otherwise of high standing, whose hands are bloody with the guilt of the crime of abortion; and abortion is committed by the wives of respectable citizens, who are taught to do so by their family physician."

At a subsequent meeting, Dr. Reamey further declared that he did not wish to confine his statements to the city of Cincinnati, but would include the country at large. A committee of the Academy was appointed in consequence of these accusations, but reported in favor of the character of Dr. Reamey, and were discharged. Meanwhile his assertion was not contradicted, and, indeed, cannot be refuted. But it places his Old School brethren under an imputation which, if true, is most scandalous. We have had legislation against obscene advertising, and prosecutions have been instituted by Mr. Comstock and his friends; it now seems for the benefit of "regular" physicians, and the "wives of respectable citizens."

No Delegates to the National E. M. Association.—The Eclectic Medical Society of this State, this year, provided for no delegates to the National Eclectic Medical Association. The constitution of that body has been so travestied as to do away with representation from states, and hence it is in no legal or legitimate sense a national organization or representative. This is a feature that ought to be modified. The purpose of the men who called the Convention at Chicago, in 1870, and of those who met there, was not to establish a roving commission, irresponsible to the existing societies, and practically aloof from them, but an association of which Eclectic Physicians included in those societies should constitute a component part. This purpose is not fulfilled.

THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION has just closed its Annual Session at Philadelphia. The papers on Medical and Sanitary questions were very valuable. The Rev. Dr. Osgood, and other intelligent laymen, took part in the proceedings; although Homeopathic, Eclectic, and other physicians, who do not subscribe to the Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association, were not admitted.

THE ECLECTIC MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The present session of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York is not behind its predecessors. The class, more than heretofore, is made up of residents of this State. Where the institution is best known, it has the most friends; and among them no calumny or insidious misrepresentation weighs for much. Since the meeting of the State Society, the number of students have doubled, and more are coming. The evidences of prosperity were never more encouraging, and the college never had warmer friends. The fact of having no private pay-classes meets general approval.

Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York.

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York, assembled at the Cooper Institute, on Wednesday, October 21, 1874, at ten o'clock in the morning, and was called to order by the Vice-President, Dr. Harmon Pease. Prayer was offered by Professor William Archer. The roll was then called by the Secretary, and a quorum ascertained to be present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved, and the action of the officers ratified. Credentials were presented from the following bodies, namely: The Eclectic Medical Society of the City of New York; the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York; the Brooklyn Academy of Eclectic Medicine; the Eclectic Medical Societies of the 12th, 15th, 18th, 23d, 27th, and 30th Senate Districts; the Eclectic Medical Society of Central New York; the South-eastern Eclectic Medical Society; the Eclectic Medical Society of Sullivan County; the Eclectic Medical Society of Albany County. There were no delegates present nor report offered from the Society of the 32d Senatorial District.

The names of the Censors were called and several members of the Board being absent their places were filled by appointment of Doctors E. B. Foote, T. L. Harris, Wm. Jones, P. W. Allen, B. J. Stow, and F. D. Gridley.

Dr. A. Wilder moved that the credentials from the new auxiliary societies of Albany County, Sullivan County, the Southeastern, and 27th Senatorial District, be referred to the Board of Censors; which motion was adopted.

On motion of Dr. R. S. Newton, the society went into Committee of the Whole.

Doctors Pease of Schenectady, Roe of Wappinger's Falls, Wheeler of Middleburgh, Newton and von Meyer, of New York City, participated in the discussion. The principal topic considered was the law passed May 11th, 1874, to regulate the practice of surgery and medicine.

Dr. Wheeler desired to understand the powers of auxiliary societies.

Dr. Newton explained that the enabling Act of 1865 withheld from the Eclectic State and local societies the power to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine, which was possessed, however, by all the Old School and Homeopathic Societies. A certificate of membership of the Eclectic State Medical Society has never been considered as a license to practice medicine.

Dr. Newton then read the act of May, and gave his views of the powers which it conferred on medical societies. He held that no man or woman was competent to treat any specific form of disease, who did not possess a general knowledge of medical and surgical practice. A man who confessed that he had never read a book on medicine, but professed to heal by inspiration, had asked whether he could have a license from an Eclectic Society; to which a negative answer was given. They were not capable of comprehending that inspiration. The law operated specially in the case of such.

Dr. von Meyer thought a person versed in a specialty should be licensed to practice that specialty.

The committee of the whole rose and reported progress.

Dr. S. Roe, Jr., read two essays; one by W. J. Jones, subject, "*What I know about Hygiene;*" and one by himself, entitled, "*Materia Medica.*"

The society had a recess till 2 P. M.

Afternoon Session.

The Board of Censors made a report, approving of candidates nominated by auxiliary societies for permanent membership.

A ballot was ordered, and Drs. Greenleaf and Smith appointed tellers. The following were elected: Drs. J. F. Willson, J. F. Neff, S. J. Birch, R. Liston, of the Albany County Society; Phebe Low, Wm. Murphy; S. Devenoge, of Sullivan County; D. H. Hanks, and C. Lloyd of the 27th District; B. T. Bedortha of the 15th District; J. E. Mattocks, Benj. Brandreth, Wm. Archer and Sam'l E. Mortimore, of the Eclectic Society of the City of New York.

The Secretary's Report was read and referred to the committees appointed under the heads of the different provisions.

Dr. Danelson submitted a motion in writing, to the effect that several committees be appointed. Carried.

A resolution was adopted to proceed at once to act upon the price of the Seventh Volume of Transactions of the Society; and the price was fixed at one dollar.

Dr. Newton moved that those gentlemen living in a distant part of the State, who desired to be transferred to honorary members, be so transferred. Carried.

Drs. Whitford, Chaney, Westcott, Freeman, and two others were thus transferred. (An amendment of the constitution, subsequently made, virtually rescinded this action.)

The Board of Censors reported again, and the following persons accordingly were elected permanent members, namely: Drs. Geo. Garland, I. E. Johnson, M. L. Filkins, A. Harrison, W. E. Cruel, Wm. Barker, N. Palmer, E. H. Gillette, M. Nims, J. H. Westcott, P. W. Allen, L. Spaulding, and Christian baron von Spiegel.

Drs. Foote, Harris and Lloyd were appointed Committee on Finance, and Drs. Danelson, Wilder and D. E. Smith a committee on the amendments suggested by the secretary to be made to the constitution.

Dr. S. P. Taft, of Newark, N. J., was nominated by Dr. Wilder for Honorary Membership, and the nomination laid over till the next meeting.

The Report of the Librarian, Miss N. Burton, of Albany, was presented by the Secretary, and placed on file.

The Report of the Committee on the preparation of a Memorial Volume, appointed in January last, was read by Dr. Foote.

On motion of Dr. D. E. Smith, the committee was continued.

Dr. Stow made a Report on the plan to procure a Building for the Head-quarters of the Society.

The report was accepted, the same committee continued, and two ordered to be added to it.

Dr. Wilder offered the following preamble and resolution, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The Amendment to Article VIII. of the Constitution of this State forbidding grants or loans of money by the Legislature, or any local authority, to, or in aid of, any association, corporation, or private undertaking, is certain to be construed as a prohibition of State or local aid to the several orphan asylums, Homes for the Friendless, Hospitals and Dispensaries, established by charitable persons for the benefit of the poor, and is likely to operate to the disbanding of such charities; Therefore,

Resolved, That this Society disapproves of the said amendment, and hereby recommends each voter to erase it from his ballot, in the manner prescribed for voting in the negative.

The Secretary reported the arrangement made by the Board of Directors of the counties not heretofore included in the territory of any auxiliary society.

On motion of Dr. Wilder,

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be requested to open correspondence with auxiliary societies with the view of establishing permanent names for them in place of the present ones taken from Senate Districts.

A. B. Whitney offered his resignation as permanent member, which was accepted.

The Convention then took a recess till evening.

Evening Session.

At eight o'clock, Dr. Pease, the Vice-President, took the chair, and business was resumed.

The Annual Address was then delivered by President Hamilton. The subject was, "The Status of Eclectic Medicine, and the Proper Means to assure its Prosperity."

Dr. Alexander Wilder, also addressed the Society upon the Capacity of Women for Professional and Collegiate Education. He controverted the position assumed by Dr. E. H. Clarke, in his treatise upon "*Sex in Education*," and insisted that women possessed superior vital power, were longer-lived than men, sustained the labor of college life equally well, and were the gainers by the

instruction of both sexes in the same institution and classes.

The Society then adjourned till morning.

Second Day—Morning Session.

The Society reassembled at ten in the morning, President Hamilton in the chair.

Dr. J. E. Danelson, from the committee on proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Society, reported an amended platform and declaration, and modifications of several of the by-laws. The report was received and laid temporarily upon the table.

Dr. Comins, delegate from the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York, submitted the Annual Report of that Institution for 1873–4.

Dr. Wilder moved that the report be placed on file.

After discussion, the motion was carried.

The Report of the Treasurer was also received and placed on file.

Dr. D. E. Smith, moved that the Report of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws be taken up and adopted by this Society, which motion was carried unanimously.

The Board of Censors reported in favor of Drs. Janes of the 27th District, and J. S. Newpher of New York, as candidates for permanent membership. A ballot was taken and the candidates duly elected.

The Report of the Advisory Committee was received and placed on file. It stated that no complaint had been made or action taken in regard to advertising.

On motion of Dr. Danelson, a committee of twelve was authorized to nominate candidates for the general offices of the society.

Dr. Danelson read the titles of certain essays, and moved that they be received by title and referred to the committee on publication. Carried.

Dr. Backus, of Boston, Mass., read an essay on Surgical Diseases, which was also referred.

The Censors reported for permanent members, Drs. Douglas and Filkins, who were duly elected.

Dr. Gunn delivered an essay on Hernia, etc.

The following were announced as the Nominating Committee, Drs. Newton, Hermance, Heaton, Owen, Devenoge, Harris, Lloyd, Wheeler, Douglas, Martin, Liston, and Bedortha.

The Convention took a recess till 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION—SECOND DAY.

Dr. Wilder moved that this State Society shall not be considered as accepting the specific views of authors of papers published in the transactions, unless distinctly so ordered; and that in future this resolution be published in each volume of the Transactions. Carried.

Dr. Wilder read a Report on Medical Instruction, which was referred to the publishing committee.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was read by the Secretary. A ballot was ordered, and Drs. Smith and Foote appointed tellers. A majority of votes having been given for Dr. Harman Pease of Schenectady, he was declared the President elect.

On motion of Dr. Wilder, Dr. Harris was elected Vice-President, and Dr. J. Edwin Danelson, Recording Secretary, by acclamation; and on motion of Dr. D. E. Smith, Chas. Lloyd was also chosen by acclamation for Corresponding Secretary, and C. T. Greenleaf for Treasurer.

The following named persons were chosen Censors:

Martin Hermance, of the 2d Judicial District; Alexander Wilder, of the Eclectic Medical College of the City of New York; Robert Liston, of the 3d Judicial District; Robert S. Newton, of the 1st; N. Bedortha, of the 4th; S. D. Hanchett, of the 5th; Frank D. Gridley, of the 6th; Dr. Hawley, of the 7th; and C. C. Johnson, of the 8th.

The Report of the same Committee proposing the time and place of the 13th annual meeting, was amended and adopted, fixing the same at Albany, on the third Wednesday in October, 1875; to be held two days.

The President elect, Dr. Harman Pease, was conducted to the chair by Drs. Wilder and Foote, and addressed the society as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—This is a very unexpected promotion to a very honorable position; one which I did not seek or expect. I therefore thank you for the honor so generously conferred. Time will not permit me to say much at this time, but I will simply promise that, with your assistance, I will do my best to discharge my new duties with assiduity, fidelity and despatch. If I shall preside and act with that ability and dignity which have characterised my predecessor, I have no doubt that I shall more than meet your expectations. Again I thank you for your confidence and for the honor conferred. I await your pleasure.

Papers were received from Dr. Kunzé, and referred.

Dr. E. S. McClellan, tendered his resignation as permanent member, which was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Foote, the report of the committee on building was adopted.

Mrs. Josephine B. Mix, M. D., read an essay, which was duly referred.

The following Building Committee was announced: Drs. E. B. Foote, A. Wilder, J. E. Danelson, and R. Hamilton; and—

The following Committee on Legislative Benefits was also appointed: Drs. Wilder, M. L. Filkins, and R. S. Newton.

Dr. B. M. Genung, read the report of a case of Uterine Cancer, which he had treated, terminating fatally. He also exhibited the tumor, having exsected it after death.*

The Society then adjourned to meet in Albany, on Wednesday, October 20th, 1875.

Ohio Eclectic Medical Association.

The annual meeting of the Ohio State Eclectic Medical Association, was held at Columbus, May 13, 1874. The following officers were elected: Prof. W. M. Ingalls, M. D., of Hamilton, President; J. W. Crawford, M. D., and H L. June, M. D., Vice-Presidents; J. L. Kirkpatrick, M. D., of Hamilton, Recording Secretary; A. Claypole, M. D., of Weston, Corresponding Secretary. The next annual meeting will be held at Dayton, May 19, 1875.

Michigan Eclectic Medical Association.

The Eclectic Medical Association of Michigan met at Marshall, June 4, 1874. The following officers were elected: W. B. Church, M. D., of Marshall, President; A. Peck, M. D., and R. C. Ely, Vice-Presidents; H. S. McMaster, M. D., of Grand Rapids, Recording Secretary. The next annual meeting will take place at Grand Rapids, June 2d, 1874.

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*The patient does not appear to have died from the immediate cancerous affection, but from other disorder which it had occasioned. The opinion was expressed by several that the case was not cancerous; but examination under the microscope demonstrated the correctness of Dr. Genung's diognosis incontrovertibly.

INDIANA ECLECTIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Eclectic Medical Association of the State of Indiana held the tenth annual meeting at the State Capitol in Indianapolis, May 6th, 1874.

The President, Dr. Henry Loring, delivered his Annual Address upon the subject of ECLECTIC MEDICINE.

A warm discussion ensued, upon the questions: "What is Eclecticism?" "Should Eclectics use mercury, arsenic, antimony, lead, and other injurious agents?"

Several speakers contended that a physician should be left entirely free to use whatever promised relief to his patient.

Others insisted that no true Eclectic will ever find occasion to use Mercury, Arsenic, Antimony, or Lead. The founders of the Eclectic School had accordingly discarded them; and so would all genuine Eclectic physicians. Opposition to there agents constituted a distinct feature of the Eclectic School.

In reply to this it was asserted that Medical Eclecticism rests on a broader and more scientific basis. The superior ideas of pathology are distinctive features commending the Eclectic School to the world.

On the second day the following officers were elected for the year, namely: President, J. A. Bowen; First Vice-President, H. W. Taylor; Second Vice-President, S. M. Work; Recording Secretary, G. W. Pickerill; Corresponding Secretary, J. Reed; Treasurer, L. Abbott.

On motion of Dr. G. W. Pickerill, the following paragraph was expunged from the Code of Ethics:

"They discarded the old degree of Depletion, the idea of 'reducing the vital powers in order to kill the disease' as positively injurious, unscientific, and contrary to sound medical philosophy and clinical experience, and, as a corollary to this, they discarded mercury and the lancet. When given even by the best and most scientific physicians, mercury has produced diseases more destructive and difficult to cure than those for which it was given; and as they have discovered and brought into use agents that are far superior as cholagogues and solvents, and in every other regard also, they do not need to use it. They discard Lead, Antimony and Arsenic, for the same reason, and as liable, in an almost equal degree, to

permanently impair the vital powers. The fancied necessity for their use at the present day, they regard as a delusion, and the man who uses them as not up with the spirit of the age.

A resolution was adopted to receive as junior members, without requirement of dues, medical students not engaged in practice.

The Indiana Position.

The Eclectic Medical Association of Indiana, having removed the inhibition of bleeding, mercury, lead and arsenic from their Code of Ethics, the following enquiry was addressed to the Secretary:

G. W. Pickerill, M. D.

DEAR SIR:—Allow me to ask whether by the expunging of this provision from your Code, the members of your society and eclectic physicians of your state, propose to adopt and use in practice, calomel, arsenic, antimony and lead, and to consider this as *Eclectic* Practice; or is it a change of their relations toward the Eclectic Medical Profession of the United States?

Yours truly,

ROBERT S. NEWTON, M. D.

REPLY.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 1st, 1874.

Prof. R. S. Newton,

DEAR DOCTOR:—Your note of enquiry is before me. I answer, "No!" The expunging of the paragraph of which mention is made in the proceedings of the Indiana Eclectic Medical Association, of May 7, last, does not change the relation of our membership toward each other; neither is it intended to change our relations with the Eclectic brotherhood throughout the world; the object being to place ourselves in more perfect accord with our brethren, and in keeping with the spirit of the age. The watchwords are ONWARD and UPWARD! Any thing short of this will not satisfy the proud spirit of Indiana at least.

It is *not* intended to give *license* to the use of "calomel, lead, etc.," either to our own membership or to any one else. This is a matter left to each individual to exercise his God-given freedom of will and judgment; being accountable for his own doings, and he is a law unto himself.

The teaching of the Indiana Association is pretty well understood to be: "Use nothing for the cure of disease *incompatible, injurious*, or *destructive* to human life."

The "Code" of principles on our Diploma of Membership, we have—to which each member pledges himself—"That he will truthfully adhere to the principles of Eclectic Medicine as laid down by its founders, to wit: proscribing all agents and means which science and experience have proved to be incompatible, injurious, and destructive to human life." Is not this orthodox enough?

There was a contradiction of ideas in the Article under discussion that made it an "eye-sore," and the time had become fully ripe when the ugly thing could be plucked off and cast into the sea of the past. I know there are those who will say it is going backward. But this I deny. The Eclectic idea,—grand and noble it is too—does not rest upon so narrow a platform as the discarding of a few agents. But I cannot speak more of this now.

The day of long-spun codes has passed; never, I hope, to return. However, the teachings of our school should be positive and direct upon the distinctive features which are set forth claiming superior advantages over all other schools of medicine. There should be no compromise here. But, while this is being done, however, it is not politic to incorporate said teachings into creeds We claim to be untrammeled by *creeds, dogmas*, or *sects*. Shall we do the very thing we despise in others? Let us away and be free among ourselves, that the world may see the better and brighter way. To say we ignore "creeds," and while still we are deriding them, are making creed of the most iron-clad sort, is acknowledging ourselves hypocritical. The National Association did a wise thing when it expunged nearly the entire code from its records. The State Societies can not do better than to follow in the same direction.

Pardon this long note, and do me the honor to believe me,

Your friend,

GEO. W. PICKERILL, M. D.

"SCIENCE" never stands in the way of setting up monuments and trophies to denote what has been achieved. If an agent or drug is shown by experience or otherwise to be evil, and that only, that seems to us to be sufficient to require its rejection; and real liberality can interpose no serious objection to naming explicitly any thing that is obnoxious. In the case of the four or five agents indicated, it does not seem to us that there is not room for two intelligent opinions, any more than there is on the morality of murder, fraud, breach of faith. If any physician

professing to be *Eclectic*, employs them, we would prefer the services of an Old School practitioner, for we would then know what to expect. Eclecticism is moving—forsaking that which is evil, and cleaving only to that which is good. We do not doubt that other agents besides those named, also, should be discarded, and that they will be when we know more. Let us stick to our milestones thus far, and erect new ones when we can. We know no liberality outside of adhering to what we know to be right. We have found the men who fight against creeds to be often the most tyranical, and most ready to infringe on private conscience. Nor do we object to a creed in medicine any more than in astronomy, so long as we can believe it. Having "known God" in these matters, we would not "turn again to the weak and beggarly elements." May we indulge in the hope that the Indiana and National Associations will be faithful.

Hernia Curable.

Profs. Astly Cooper, Benjamin Cooper, Gross, Carnochan, Valentine, Mott, and other high authorities in Surgery, declare that Hernia is curable.

Any direct and continued pressure upon the parts forming the abdominal ring, made in such a way as to irritate them to a degree which will cause adhesive inflammation, if continued a sufficient length of time, will in every case effectually remedy the difficulty. Any Truss or pressure that cannot be worn day and night, without being laid aside for an interval, affords an opportunity for the rupture to open again, thus perpetuating the difficulty, and causing severe pain and liability to strangulation. One cause of ill success is that the pad and pressure are frequently applied too near the ospubis.

Hernia generally makes its first appearance nearly midway between the symphysis and the anterior-superior spine of the ilium; from thence it descends through the external ring or opening which is situated just above the pubes, and its apex situated obliquely upwards and outwards. This is the part where the pad is usually applied, but a moment's reflection will convince any surgeon, physician or person, that to effect a cure, it should be applied upon the upper opening where the hernia first makes its

appearance. Another error is committed by having the pad so constructed that it, by being too large or pointed, keeps the parts intended to be united by adhesive inflammation so separated that union is impossible.

No person not having made himself familiar with the anatomy of hernia, and fully instructed, can ever apply a truss so as to make a radical cure—while on the other hand there is no excuse for a failure. The manufacturer of a truss as well as the one who applies it, should not only understand the anatomy of the the parts, but should be acquainted with the peculiar physical conditions necessary for a successful result. Patients using these mechanical appliances should be as fully instructed as the circumstances will permit. There should be drawings carefully made to enable them to perceive where the pad must be placed, and why it ought to be continuously worn, never to be removed without lying upon the back to prevent the protruding and the disturbance of the freshly-formed adhesions.

WHAT WILL PREVENT A CURE.—The use of any truss which cannot be worn day and night, and which will not keep the hernia from passing down, or one that is likely to occasion paralysis in consequence of the pressure upon the spine. Many of the spring trusses do this. A second reason is the removing of the truss while the patient is standing up.

WHAT WILL ACCOMPLISH A RADICAL CURE.—An appliance or truss which can be kept in place both day and night, thus retaining the parts in proper contact, and, at the same time, creating just irritation enough to induce the effusion of plastic lymph essential to their permanent adhesion. Only in this way can the desired union of parts be secured.

WHAT KIND OF TRUSS WILL DO THIS? — The Elastic Truss, which is constructed without any metallic springs, which never produces paralysis, and can be so adjusted that the hernia never passes below the pad, will do it, and, if properly applied and properly worn, will do so in every case—old and young.

Miss Lucy W. Harrison, M. D., and Miss A. T. Nivison, M. D., have opened an office at No. 106 Clinton Place, N. Y. City. Both ladies are graduates in medicine, accomplished, and in every way deserving physicians.

Changes at Bellevue Hospital.

The Commissioners of Charities and Corrections of this city have appointed a new Board and Staff at Bellevue Hospital. For this action they have been severely criticised; we cannot perceive why. Often at the cliniques, medical students were studiously and grossly insulted. The changes were made none too early. We hope that they have been radical enough to exempt unprotected persons from future exhibitions of drunkenness and indecency.

Reformed Medicine appears to be looking up this fall. Gov. Samuel J. Tilden is the head of a family well known to Eclectic physicians. Prof. Joseph D. Friend of the Metropolitan Medical College, and Henry B. Ransom, of Erie, a graduate of the Cincinnati Medical Institute, and the Hon. L. Bradford Prince, son of the late Dr. Samuel R. Prince of Flushing, have been chosen to the Assembly of this State.

BOOK TABLE.

Dr. John M. Scudder, of the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati, has just issued a volume of 378 pages, "*On the Reproductive Organs and the Venereal.*" Despite the repellent title, the work itself deserves a careful and thorough discriminating perusal even by non-professional readers, as there are facts stated in it of which nobody can afford to be ignorant. The plainness of speech will give a modest person no offence; and there is no real chastity in the repudiating of the functional agencies from our conversation, in which life and its sanctities are most intimately involved, or in thinking of them as an impure element of the nature.

Some of Dr. Scudder's social ideas are undergoing consideration at the present time among social reformers. Under the head of *Generation* are several ideas not often found in medical works. *Marital Excesses* are also considered, and much is wisely said; yet we think that when married persons ought to occupy separate beds, it is because they ought not to be married. Much is judiciously said about prostitution, which moralists ought to read attentively. The case of Judah and Tamor (Genesis xxxviii.) was not regarded as common harlotry. "He thought her to be a

sacred woman (Hebrew Kadeshah, from KADISH, holy) because she had covered her face," as usual with priestesses, (*Proverbs* vi. 24, 25, vii. 10-13.) Dr. Scudder's remark is doubtless correct: "If history is to be believed, we would reach the conclusion, that chastity or unchastity has little influence in woman's degradation, as compared to the public law which forces her to hide herself from all that is good in the world." His remedies for prostitution are worth considering—to punish seduction as a penitentiary offence, to legitimatize children born out of wedlock, to regard man and woman for their intrinsic worth rather than for the clothes they wear, make labor honorable, and pay women for the work they do. Yet he acknowledges that "it is an absolute necessity of our present social existence," and "seems to gain strength by prohibitory laws."

The diseases arising from vicious sexual indulgence are duly enumerated, their causes assigned, and treatment prescribed. The remedies, however, occasionally overpass the limit of original "Eclectic" practice, comprising Fowler's Solution of Arsenic, Citrine Ointment, and Mayer's Ointment, one a mercurial and the other a lead preparation, and all characterised in the American Dispensatory published at Cincinnati as "obsolescent." Indeed, the book qualifiedly defends the employment of mercury. We sympathize with the sneer upon "imperfect teaching and recipe practice;" and "a peroration on the wonders of the Eclectic practice," but having in boyhood revolted against the use of the drug, and adopted medical Eclecticism instead, we must refuse to "return to the beggarly elements." The statement that mercury "sometimes accomplishes results that are not attainable by other means," is one which we do not accept, and after reading it, we with surprise find the writer discribing himself as "one who does not employ the drug or recommend it." Indeed if mercury comes under the standard at Cincinnati, we have no further occasion for surprise that graduates of the Eclectic Medical Institute come annually to this city to attend the Old School Colleges.

With these disclaimers, we recommend the book to general perusal, as a desideratum in our surgical literature. In a new edition we entreat, however, that Dr. Scudder will employ a new proof-reader; the errors are occasionally very striking. Phyrne for Phryne, *de nova* for *de novo*, Daharraque for Labarraque, etc., are among their oversights.

NB685